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Unanimous Rejection of Peres' Plan

by Said al-Ghazali

"There is absolutely no substitute for the PLO."

Rashad al-Shawwa, the former mayor of Gaza, spoke emphatically into the telephone in response to a question from an *Al Fajr* reporter. He spoke in response to Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres' call on Jordan to begin "peace" talks before the end of the year.

Peres presented his plan for a bilateral agreement with Jordan in his speech before the United Nations General Assembly at the 40th anniversary commemorative session October 21. He calls for talks with Jordan but not the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Peres' initiative was therefore unanimously rejected by local Palestinian figures as well as the PLO and Arab countries. The local as well as Arab response stressed that Peres' proposals represent no change in previous Israeli political positions.

Will Hussein smoke the pre-conditional cigars from Shimon Peres' peace package?

Peres' Plan

Speaking from the UN rostrum, Peres called for the termination of the state of war between Israel and Jordan. His plan, he said, aims at reaching peace treaties between Israel and the Arab states as well as resolving the Palestinian issue. Peres stressed that neither party may impose preconditions. Yet he added that direct negotiations are to be based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Peres stated that the negotiations could be for intermediate or permanent arrangements. It can be between the Israelis on the one hand and a Jordanian or Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, "both delegations comprising delegates that represent peace, not terror."

Peres said that the negotiations may be initiated with the support of an international forum. Yet the forum cannot be a substitute for direct talks. Peres also excluded some permanent members of the Security Council, particularly the Soviet Union and China, from the international forum. The proposal urged other members of the UN Security Council to support the initiation of these negotiations. Referring to the Soviet Union and China who have no diplomatic relations with Israel, he said, "It is our position that those who confine their diplomatic relations to one side of the conflict exclude themselves from such a role." This means that the international forum includes only the United States, the United Kingdom and France who have diplomatic relations with Arab countries and Israel.

Peres said the agenda, procedure and international support for negotiations can be discussed and arranged for by small working teams, which can be formed within 30 days.

Local Reaction

Radwan Abu Ayash, chairman of the Arab Journalists Association, described Peres' plan as part of the vicious circle of so-called 'peace' plans so prevalent in this area. It represents nothing more, he said. Abu Ayash explained that Peres is not seeking a durable and just peace. "He wants to appear in the world's eyes as a man of peace," he said. Abu Ayash expressed fear that there is "a scheme in which some Arab countries are involved to strike at the PLO." Abu Ayash refused to mention these Arab countries by name.

Former Gaza Mayor Shawwa pointed to the obviously contradictory elements in Peres' speech. He said Peres contradicted himself when he mentioned that neither party may impose preconditions. Peres imposed preconditions when he refused participation of the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative — the PLO.

"Israel does not want peace," said Shawwa. "Look at what is happening in Gaza. The authorities are confiscating land in the south of the Gaza Strip and constructing summer resorts for the Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip," he said. "This is another precondition," said

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Public Supports Detainees' Hunger Strike

Public outcry against prolonged detention without charge of West Bank and Gaza Palestinians continued this week as administrative detainees entered their second week of a hunger strike.

Relatives of detainees held sit-in protests in three Red Cross offices in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron. The families demand that the administrative detention orders against their sons be cancelled.

"We, the families of 99 Palestinians placed under administrative detention by the Israeli occupation authorities, call upon human rights organisations and all supporters of the Palestinian people's struggle for self-determination to support the strike declared by our sons in Israeli jails for the abolition of administrative detention orders," read a statement issued by the families. It went on to say that "their arrest for a lengthy period of time without taking them to trial and without specifying the charges against them, violates basic human rights made specific in internationally accepted conventions."

Some of the protesting relatives, in talking to an *Al Fajr* reporter, expressed deep concern over the health conditions of the detainees. They were worried that overcrowdedness in the prisons and bad food is worsening the health of some detainees already suffering from certain illnesses. Another statement issued by the families read: "Our sons who have declared an open hunger strike since the 9th of October, 1985, are suffering from the lack of humane conditions in Israeli jails. A number of detainees suffering from various illnesses such as ulcers, heart disease and diabetes are denied medical attention. The food presented to them before the strike was insufficient and of bad quality. Our sons are also denied access to local newspapers and magazines as well as books. They have also been forced to live in crowded rooms — in Beer Sheba prison, 35 prisoners live in a single room and have to share 20 beds, in addition to the narrow space in which they are allowed to move."

Complaints of the families and detainees were supported by four members of the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, from the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality. At a press conference held in West Jerusalem October 23, Tawfiq Zayyad, Meir Vilner, Charlie Beiton and Uzi Bornstein related to a group of journalists what they saw during an earlier visit to Jnaid prison near Nablus where a number of administrative detainees were being held.

Zayyad and Beiton spoke on the difficult prison conditions of the detainees. Some of the prisoners who met the MKs told them that the prison physician refused to treat the sick unless they break their strike. They

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Will her studies recitation help her get to college or get a job in the future?

Chamber of Commerce Considers Running Nablus Municipality

An attempt is underway in Nablus to return control of city hall to Arab hands. This attempt, however, has met strong opposition from the city's elected-later-dismissed mayor and other council members.

The issue of Nablus municipality surfaced October 14 when the city's Chamber of Commerce announced that it was thinking of taking over the municipality from the Israeli officer appointed to head it in 1982.

The Israeli authorities took control of the Nablus municipality, and several other municipalities, in 1982 following the mayor and council's refusal to deal with the Israeli 'civil administration'.

Thafer al-Masri

According to Thafer al-Masri, head of the Chamber of Commerce and deputy mayor of Nablus, the decision to consider running the municipality followed a request from local citizens who felt their businesses were being hurt by the absence of an Arab administration. As a result, Masri said in an interview published in the daily *Al Quds* newspaper October 16, he moved to request that the Chamber of Commerce act as a municipality for a maximum of one year during which another arrangement would be made for the establishment of an independent municipality.

Masri's request, however, still requires Israeli government approval. The Israeli government has been trying to install Arab councils to replace the dismissed ones. Its attempts, however, have not found much support among credible Palestinian personalities. It is currently relying on military officers to run several Arab municipalities.

In an interview with *Al Tali'a* weekly published October 17, Nablus's elected-but-dismissed Mayor Bassam Shaka'a and other council members expressed opposition to the Chamber of Commerce move. The opposition stemmed from fear that the CC move would play into hands of an Israeli scheme to create so-called autonomy in the occupied territories by ruling out the PLO and creating instead local representation. Councillor Tahsin Shakhshir criticised the Chamber of Commerce for trying to circumvent the elected council. Shakhshir was quoted as saying that the city council "still exists even though the Israeli authorities froze its activities and dismissed the mayor. He said "the council was never dismissed and did not resign."

Shakhshir added that the Chamber of Commerce should have asked the Israelis to reactivate the elected city council allowing it to continue serving the local population.

Mayor Shaka'a in an *Al Tali'a* interview expressed doubt about the ability of the CC to serve the local population. Shaka'a said the CC has been unable so far to look after the interest of the city's business people. He wondered aloud how it would be able to serve the interests of the entire Nablus population.

Council member Adel Ghanem, who also heads one of the two West Bank Federations of Labour, sounded similar criticism. If Masri was unable to solve problems of the city businesses, which led him at one point to even submit his resignation, then one cannot expect him to succeed in dealing with problems facing the whole community, said Ghanem.

Thafer al-Masri resigned from the Chamber of Commerce earlier this summer in protest against what he said was a deteriorating economic situation in Nablus and heavy taxes imposed on city merchants. He also was protesting Israeli indifference to the interests of the city. Masri, however, withdrew his resignation three months later because, as he put it, city merchants pleaded with him to resume his duties as head of the CC.

Masri is also spearheading efforts to start an independent Palestinian bank in Nablus. If successful, this will be the first Arab bank in the West Bank since the 1967 Israeli occupation. Attempts to start the proposed bank have been facing delays from Jordan which worries that it will not be totally idependent but reliant on the Israeli central bank.

According to Mayor Shaka'a, the city council was in constant quarrel with the Israeli authorities over services it wanted to render to the city. He said the Israelis tried very hard to obstruct development projects in Nablus like the water and electricity projects. This, he said, was the major cause of dispute with the Israelis.

In dismissing the West Bank mayors in 1982, Israel claimed it did so because of their pro-PLO leanings. It has been arguing since then that it will not allow the mayors to return to their posts unless they agree to cooperate with the Israeli authorities which they have all refused to do.

In talking about the CC step to take charge of city hall, Masri said it was conditional on the fact that the Israeli government not interfere in any way in its work and remove all obstacles placed in its way to help it complete the work. He also demanded that the municipality be given its monetary and non-monetary rights. Masri said that this arrangement of twinning the work of the Chamber of Commerce and city hall should not exceed one year during which a council committee should be formed to take responsibility for the municipality.

According to Masri, the Israeli government agrees to his plan but, he said, the CC needs more time, maybe two months, to study the popular reaction before it decided on the matter. He also said that Jordan does not oppose the idea especially if this is what the people want.

The Israeli High Court turned down last year an appeal by several dismissed West Bank mayors to return to their posts or hold new elections. The court said it ruled against the mayors for 'security' reasons.

Widad Abd al-Halim and her seven children at home alone after the disappearance of her husband, journalist Hassan Abd al-Halim.

NO OFFICIAL SEARCH

Arab Newsman Still Missing

Two Jewish teachers were reported missing from the town of Afula two months ago. Within hours thousands of soldiers, police, and civil defence employees, supported by helicopters, were dispatched on a large-scale search. They were found.

Palestinian journalist Hassan Abd al-Halim from Biddu village, near Ramallah, was reported missing October 4. No soldiers, police or civil defence personnel were dispatched. Instead his wife, brothers, lawyer and fellow journalists are spearheading the search. And he has not yet been found.

Abd al-Halim, 35, a correspondent for *Al Fajr* Arabic daily, was on assignment at the time of his disappearence. He was working on the issue of land fraud in the West Bank involving forged documents, threats and forced transfers.

Abd al-Halim's 32-year-old wife, Widad, expressed anger at the Israeli authorities' attitude concerning her husband's disappearance. She complained of the lack of any real efforts on their part to find him. Speaking in several interviews with Arabic and Israeli newspapers, she demanded a speedy and thorough search for him. "We just want to know what happened to him. Is he dead or alive?" his wife asked. Abd al-Halim has seven children, the youngest of whom is one month old.

After contacting the Israeli authorities and police, attorney Jonathan Kuttab was told that Abd al-Halim is not being held in jail. The Israeli police in Ramallah have also refused to start a search campaign for him on the pretext that he disappeared in Jerusalem, and that makes the Jerusalem police responsible for the case. *The Jerusalem Post*, however, reported October 22 that the Ramallah police conducted a search in the Silwad area north of Ramallah but could not find any trace of the missing journalist.

Abd al-Halim's disappearance is feared to be connected to his research on fraudulent land deals in the West Bank. *Al Fajr* sources said that Abd al-Halim's assignment involved cases of land transfers in the village of Biddu where he lived. Large land areas were transferred to the Ma'aleh Hahamisha settlement near the village through Arab land brokers.

During the past few months a major scandal was uncovered when Arab and Israeli newspapers published detailed reports on the extent of the case and methods used to transfer Arab property to Israeli hands.

Abd al-Halim was first reported missing on October 4, when his wife contacted the newspaper office to inquire about him. She said he left home on the previous morning promising to return for lunch with his family, but he never showed up. Several employees reported that he came to the paper that morning and left the offices shortly before noon. The possibility of him travelling abroad was ruled out because his Jordanian passport was left at home.

University Hopes to Test Jailed Najah Students

Students, faculty and administrators of an-Najah University in Nablus are searching for a way to allow jailed students to take their final exams behind bars.

Sixteen Najah University students were arrested last month and are being held without charge on trial under revived administrative detention orders.

The students, four of whom are seniors, need only 20 class days to finish the academic year. The academic year was cut short this summer when Israeli authorities closed the university down for two months last July.

An-Najah University Spokesperson Sa'eb Ereqat says that the university cannot graduate the imprisoned students unless they complete their academic requirements. Faced with this predicament, the university contacted the Red Cross in an attempt to get the Israeli authorities to allow books and also exams into the lockups. The Red Cross replied that the Israeli prison authorities agreed to allow in academic books. However, according to university students who visited their colleagues in prison, the books had not reached the students 10 days later.

Ereqat said the university had earlier decided to send faculty members to villages where students are held under town arrest.

An-Najah University students are worried about the condition of their colleagues in prison. Adnan Dmeiri, former student body president, told *Al Fajr* that administrative detentions are much worse than regular imprisonment. "The arrestees are not charged, not tried and have no idea when they will be released." The detention orders are for six months but can be renewed without any new evidence being presented.

Another student, Abd al-Latif Ramadan, said that the authorities are not honouring their own laws. "According to their laws, administrative detainees should be treated differently than regular inmates." The administrative detainees' lockup is supposed to be only precautionary and not considered a punishment. "They are to be given three hours of walking outside the cells, to keep their own clothes and to get regular visits," he said.

University students complained that conditions of their colleagues in Beer Sheba prison are the worst. "There are 45 prisoners in cells with only 30 beds," said Asma Omar, a fourth-year student.

Al-Bayader Banned For Two Weeks

The Israeli censor banned October 17 distribution for two weeks of *Al-Bayader al-Siyassi* magazine in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. The ban followed a magazine interview published October 12 with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Al-Bayader publisher Jack Khazmo told *Al Fajr* he received the censor's order two days before his weekly issue was to hit the newsstands. He said this caused great financial loss because the magazine had already been printed in enough quantity to supply the large West Bank and Gaza markets. Khazmo called the Israeli move "a campaign to suppress the press in the West Bank." He said this follows in line with pressure put on the government by right-wing Israelis who, among other things, demand that the government shut down the Arabic press.

The Arab Journalists Association in the West Bank and Gaza outlined at a press conference October 14 Israeli measures to silence the Arabic press. Among these measures was the closure of *al-Manar* press office and *al-Darb* newspaper. They also included the administrative detention of five journalists and the placement of three more under town arrest.

Editor-in-Chief of the newly-founded *al-Darb* newspaper was quoted at the press conference as voicing a complaint similar to Khazmo's. Dr. Hanna Hallaq said the closure of his paper and other journalistic institutions was intended to please the Israeli settlers.

Since the reactivation last August of the British Emergency Regulations of 1945 the Israeli government has been applying harsher measures against Palestinian nationalist institutions and individuals. Editors of local newspapers have complained that censorship regulations have been toughened for no apparent reason but to make life more difficult for the Arabic press. Settlers have joined the Israeli establishment in demanding tough measures against the Arabic newspapers. Last month settlers held a government-permitted demonstration in front of the Arabic *Al Fajr* office demanding its closure.

The Israeli ban on *Al-Bayader* ends October 30 which means it will affect only two issues of the weekly magazine. However, this is the first time such a measure has been taken against the magazine since its inception 10 years ago. *Al-Bayader*, like the majority of the Arabic language publications, has most of its readership in the West Bank and Gaza.

PLO Movement Restricted in Jordan

Palestinian-Jordanian relations were further strained this week when the Jordanian government decided to implement a series of restrictions against the PLO's presence in the Hashemite Kingdom.

According to a special report in the pro-Jordanian *Al Quds* Arabic daily, October 24, Jordanian authorities closed down a number of PLO offices and ordered a reduction in their staff in Amman. The paper also said that Jordan informed the PLO that a number of PLO figures would not be allowed to reside in Jordan, including Colonel Abu al-Tayeb, commander of the Fatah Force 17.

Earlier, newspapers in the Arab Gulf States reported that the Jordanian authorities have informed PLO leader Yasser Arafat that they would be unable to guarantee his safety if he comes to Jordan. Other reports said that Jordanian security forces have increased their watch on PLO offices in Jordan.

These measures toward the PLO began following the aborted meeting between two PLO officials in the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation and the British Foreign Minister Geoffrey Howe two weeks ago. Jordan then adopted the British version and said the PLO had backed down from previous commitments to renounce "terror" and recognise Israel.

The Jordanian monarch announced after the aborted meeting that he will reevaluate relations with the PLO. A senior Fatah Central Committee member, Khaled al-Hassan, arrived in Amman October 21, carrying a message from PLO leader Yasser Arafat to King Hussein. According to some news reports, King Hussein demanded that the PLO take a more clear stand on the peace process.

Reports also said that PLO Chairman Arafat will arrive in Amman later this week for further talks with King Hussein on the future of the joint initiative.

Mysterious Explosion Kills Boy, Injures Another

by Said al-Ghazali

In a mysterious explosion, a 15-year-old Palestinian boy was killed and his 14-year-old companion seriously wounded October 16. A explosive device exploded in their hands near Mount Tawil in the West Bank town of al-Bireh.

Residents of the area say the origin of the bomb is most suspicious and evidence points to Israeli settlers possibly from the nearby Psagot settlement. All indications, they say, point to the conclusion that the explosion was a deliberate act intended to terrorise residents of Mount Tawil located only 500 metres from Psagot. The bomb was placed in a populated area and two other suspicious objects were discovered shortly before and after the incident. In addition, the Israeli authorities alternately reported different versions of the incident which have cast doubts on the validity of any official explanation.

Apparently prompted by curiosity, Bashar Darwish Shaban and his friend Anwar Mahmoud Abu Musalam picked up a strange object lying next to a stone wall only 15 metres away from his home. The object suddenly exploded in his hands killing Bashar instantly and seriously injuring his companion Anwar. A third boy, Abdel Karim, was slightly injured by flying shrapnel. Flying bits also punctured a Fiat parked nearby and shattered its windows.

Flying shrapnel also hit a water tank and nearby roadsign. The force of the explosion was so great that the echo from it resounded for several seconds. The smoke was thick, say residents of Mount Tawil who rushed out of their homes to find the two boys lying in a pool of blood across the street where they had been thrown. They were immediately taken to Ramallah Government Hospital.

An hour later everyone on the Mount had heard the news of Bashar's death. The incident which took place at 3:30 pm shortly after lunch rocked the neighbourhood.

Israeli soldiers, as well as several settlers, arrived on the scene. Residents of the area were then denied entry as the area was declared a closed military zone.

The same evening Israeli Radio reported that the two boys were preparing a bomb when it went off killing one of them and wounding the other. The next day, the radio reported instead that the explosive device had been left behind by the Jordanian army.

Families of the two boys refuted such claims. They expressed their belief that the act was deliberate and said proof of that was the discovery of the two other objects they believed to be bombs in the same area. It also a matter of record that the

Bashar Abu Shaban

Jordanian army never had a military camp or base in the area. Nor did they maintain any kind of presence in this populated quarter. They also found it highly unlikely that any strange object could be sitting so close to the boys' home for 18 years after the Jordanian army's departure and not have aroused the boys' curiosity before.

At first residents reported that they suspected the unexploded device could have been an artillery shell carelessly left behind by the Israeli army. later they decided the device must have come from settlers in the Psagot settlement who pass daily through the quarter on their way to or from the settlement.

Darwish Abu Shaban, the 55-year-old father of Bashar, said that residents discovered what they thought was another bomb October 17 the day after the incident. It was placed 100 metres from the spot where the explosion occurred. Residents notified soldiers in the military patrol on the Mount about the second bomb. Later, soldiers claimed, however, that it was only an empty tin.

A woman living in the same quarter also discovered a suspicious object in her yard. She gave it to a passerby from the settlement, who took it and went away.

Darwish Abu Shaban said he was unable to say for sure whether either of the two other objects had been explosive devices. He said he also wanted to refrain from accusing anyone directly for responsibility for the bomb that killed his son. Abu Shaban has decided not to ask for compensation for the loss of his son.

Abu Shaban as well as the father of the other boy, Mahmoud Abu Musalam, seem content to accept whatever version of the incident is given to them and they have chosen not to contest the incident in court. This does not stop them, however, from expressing some disbelief at the story claiming the bomb was left behind by the Jordanians. Abu Shaban and his elder son Shaban, who runs al-Manar cafe in Ramallah, said, "We've lived in this house since 1962 and we built a second storey on it and added a garage. The bomb exploded near the garage which has never witnessed any military presence. If this was a bomb left behind, then we would have discovered it a few months ago."

Abu Shaban's family were given the corpse of their son Bashar on the next day. They received strict orders from the Ramallah police to bury Bashar at night. A large number of Israeli soldiers and policemen accompanied the funeral procession, apparently out of fear of a demonstration.

In his meeting with an Israeli officer at the Ramallah police headquarters, Abu Shaban says he was told that the bomb was not left by the Israeli army. He told *Al Fajr*, "They made themselves appear to be innocent." The grieving father said that his son Bashar, the youngest of his nine sons and daughters, had never done any harm to anybody. "I always used to keep an eye on him," he said.

The injured boy Anwar is also the youngest of his family of seven. His father told *Al Fajr* what he recalled of the incident: "I was at home when I heard the explosion. I went out... a lot of neighbours were running. Some people were stunned. The blood of Anwar and Bashar was still there and people told me they were taken to Ramallah Hospital. At the hospital, Anwar was in the surgery theatre. Doctors and nurses prevented me from going in."

Anwar's mother said sadly, "Anwar was at home eating an apple. He went out and a few moments later I heard that explosion. It is very, very sad."

Anwar's sister said that Anwar had previously spent 50 days in Fara'a Detention Centre near Nablus. He was charged with throwing stones at Israeli soldiers. He is currently awaiting trial on November 17.

ANSAR RESOURCE CENTRE

An archive for documents, testimonies and artifacts related to Ansar Prison Camp. The Centre has produced a 30 min. documentary video (VHS) on Ansar, US 29 dollars, postage included. Also available: slide shows, artwork, cassettes, note cards and books.

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Two Israelis Stabbed in Nablus

Attacks on Israelis continued this week in the occupied territories and Israel in spite of stiff military reprisals.

Two Israelis were stabbed and slightly injured in the occupied territories October 18 and 19 in two separate incidents. At the village of Sabastiya, just outside Nablus, unknown individuals attacked October 18 with knives an Israeli tourist guide as he was showing tourists through the famous Byzantine ruins. The guide, identified as 33-year-old Moshe Hayuta of Jerusalem, received neck, chest and hand wounds. He was rushed to a nearby military clinic and then later transferred to a hospital in Kfar Saba. He was reported in good condition. None of the accompanying tourists were harmed.

Sabastiya was later placed under curfew and so was nearby Burqa village where Israeli investigators believe the attackers came from. An army unit conducted searches in both villages and detained an unspecified number of residents. The curfews were lifted the next day.

In Gaza, the site of growing attacks on Israeli targets, a 39-year-old Israeli taxi driver from Asqalan was wounded in the back when attacked October 19 while shopping in the city. Ari Finno was attacked with a knife. He was taken to a hospital in Asqalan where he was reported *in fair condition.*

A curfew was imposed on the area of the attack and several people were arrested. Dozens of armed settlers patrolled the area later on in an attempt to intimidate the local population.

A bomb also exploded October 21 outside Gaza's prison. Israeli press reports said the bomb went off as Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev and Prison Director Rafi Suissa were touring the prison. No one was hurt in the explosion.

Two bombs exploded simultaneously in the Afula marketplace October 23 injuring five Israelis, one seriously. According to police reports, the bombs were placed under vegetable boxes. Shoppers ran in all directions seeking shelter when the bombs went off while police tried to close the area in search of more explosives.

More than 80 Arabs were rounded up for questioning and many others were kept away from the Israeli town as a precaution against possible revenge acts by Afula residents. Afula was recently the scene of strong anti-Arab sentiments following the killing two months ago of two of its residents. Arab shopkeepers there and workers were said to have been beaten by Jewish zealots.

The Afula marketplace was closed for three hours after the explosion while a large contingent of police officers inspected the area. Afula falls just inside the 'green line' about 15 kilometres north of the West Bank town of Jenin. Many Arabs work there in factories and on farms.

There were other Israeli reports of Palestinian commando units arrested during this month. At the same time the Israeli army continued its heavy presence in and around major West Bank and Gaza cities and towns.

Egyptian riot police (foreground) face thousands of angry Cairo college students in this week's violent anti-US demonstrations.

Anti-US Cairo Protests Take Bloody Turn

An Egyptian college student died October 20 and several others were seriously wounded as demonstrations in Cairo reached a frenzied peak.

Egyptian demonstrators continue to protest hijacking of the Egyptian plane carrying the Palestinian hijackers of the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro.*

Hundreds of angry students and activists in the Egyptian opposition parties organised demonstrations at Ain Shams and Cairo Universities. Reports from the Egyptian capital spoke of violent clashes between the demonstrators and Egyptian policemen. In response US President Ronald Reagan sent his envoy John Whitehead to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. After the meeting, reports said that Whitehead expressed "US regret to developments that took the course they did."

Cairo reports said the Egyptian police stormed the Ain Shams University campus October 20. Two students were critically wounded in the resulting clashes between the demonstrators and the Egyptian police.

One student was transferred to Demerdash Hospital suffering from concussion and the other was taken to the university hospital suffering from serious wounds to his head and belly. Scores of other students were also wounded during the clashes. The Egyptian police also arrested a large number of students.

Observers say that this is the strongest wave of anti-American sentiment in Egypt for 15 years. The demonstrations began to spread in Egypt October 5 following the Israeli air raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis. Protesters set ablaze US and Israeli flags and shouted "God is Great." They also shouted for the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador in Cairo, Moshe Sasoun. The demonstrators were forcefully dispersed by riot police.

Meanwhile Egyptian authorities declared a state of emergency and re-applied emergency regulations used in October 1981 following the death of President Anwar Sadat. Egyptian authorities fear the spread of the demonstrations to other parts of the city.

Christian 'Hope' Radio Blown Up

The Evangelical Christian Voice of Hope (VOH) radio station in south Lebanon was destroyed October 17 in an attack by nationalist Lebanese forces.

News reports from the so-called 'Security Zone,' which is controlled by Israeli and South Lebanon Army (SLA) forces, said that four commandos carrying large amounts of explosives forced their way into the radio station near Marjayoun. Station guards exchanged fire with the four commandos, detonating the explosives they carried. The explosion rocked the building, and cut off the broadcast.

Reports said that nine people, including three of the unit, were killed in the explosion. The rest were employees and guards of the station. There are no reports as to the nationality of the employees.

Later on the same evening, Syrian Television broadcast prerecorded interviews with the four commandos who carried out the attack. They identified themselves as Hussam Hijazi, Nasser Khirfan, Michael Saliba and Elias Harb, all belonging to the Lebanese Communist Party, one of the major components of the Lebanese National Resistance Front. The LNRF pioneered the armed struggle against the Israeli occupation of Lebanon.

The LNRF issued a statement in South Lebanon that it decided to attack the VOH radio station "to silence the voice which advocates collaboration with the [Israeli] enemy and treason." The statement explained that the attack plan was originally that the four commandos would occupy the VOH building, kill all 15 guards and employees, and then place a 50 kilogramme explosive charge with a timer inside, set to explode at midnight.

The VOH radio station was established by an American Evangelical Christian group in California following the Israeli invasion of South Lebanon in 1978. The radio station later served as the mouthpiece of the Sa'ad Haddad mini-state in the south Lebanon enclave known today as the 'Security Zone'.

Al Nahda Opens New Programme

A unique special education programme concerning the handicapped has begun in Ramallah.

Thirteen men and women from various parts of the West Bank inaugurated in early October a nine-month programme, entitled Village 'In'reach. The programme, in conjunction with Ramallah's Al-Nahda Women's Association and sponsored by the Catholic Relief Service, aims at giving basic training to people who work with the mentally handicapped and their families in the village.

Nadia Tarazi, who directs Al-Nahda Association's handicapped programme, said that since there are very few care centres for mentally retarded children, it is necessary to train their families and interested persons to work with them. She said the programme, unique to the occupied territories, was first suggested by the CRS and has attracted people from various parts of the West Bank.

Al-Nahda also realised a "dream" when they recently opened the first local boarding school for handicapped children in Ramallah.

Due to limited financial resources, the centre now provides permanent residence for only 10 children. Tarazi told *Al Fajr* that they hope to expand the centre, which is sponsored by the Swedish Save the Children Federation, if they can provide the funds to cover the necessary expenses.

Administrative Detainees Reach 104

Israeli authorities arrested October 23 five persons from Nablus, Abu Dis village near Jerusalem and Dura town in the Hebron district. The five were arrested under the newly revived administrative detention procedures.

The number of Palestinian activists who have been arrested under the 1945 British Mandate Emergency Regulations has reached 104.

Israel Radio which reported the story said that the five men were suspected of incitement. The radio also quoted Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin as saying, "We will continue to arrest inciters under the administative detention."

The new arrestees are: Majed Labadi, 26, a member of the Executive Committee of the General Federation of Labour Unions; and unionist Adel Salah, both from Abu Dis; Ahmad Salhoub, a student from Dura in the Hebron district; and Taysir Nusrallah, a student from Balatta refugee camp in Nablus. The fifth person's identity is not known.

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No PLO - No 'New' Peace Proposal

After close consultation and coordination with the US administration, Israel's Prime Minister Shimon Peres introduced new proposals for "peace" in the Middle East.

Peres' proposals called for direct negotiations between Jordan and Israel, or between a non-PLO, Palestinian-Jordanian delegation and Israel. He also demanded that negotiations start without preconditions and suggested the formation of work groups within one month to prepare for an agenda for the proposed negotiations.

The gist of Peres' proposals basically calls for excluding the PLO from participation in any future negotiations. This is in line with standing Israeli policy not to talk to the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Peres' scheme was a logical end to a vigorous Israeli-American campaign to discredit the PLO in the eyes of the international community as a valid partner in future peace negotiations. The target of this campaign was, more or less, the Palestinian national rights, especially the right to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state.

Despite the concessions it made to be included in the political efforts to find a peaceful settlement, the PLO remained, in US eyes, a hostile element which would never be admitted into the US orbit. Likewise, for Israel the PLO and their goal of a Palestinian state remain a threat to Israel's interests and would never qualify as an established pro-Western government.

However, the US-Israeli campaign would never have succeeded had it not been for Arab disunity. The weak Arab position, as Washington and Israel attacked the PLO and daubed it a "terrorist" group, served as a green light for both states to contemplate "new" proposals.

Though there was rejection by unnamed Jordan officials of Peres' proposals, the official Jordanian media stayed away from the entire issue.

Peres' exclusion of the PLO from participation in the negotiations has doomed his proposal to failure. It seems as if he has not learned the lesson of his predecessor Menachem Begin following the Camp David agreement – that no peaceful solution can be achieved in the Middle East if it ignores the Palestinian people's legitimate representative, the PLO.

AL FAJR – Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly

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Peres' Peace Proposals

Anything But New

by Daoud Kuttab

Peace initiatives aimed at finding a durable solution to the Middle East crisis are the latest fad in world diplomacy. Parties to the conflict, world governments, international bodies and many regional organisations have all had their turn at suggesting 'new' formulas. The latest proposals by Israeli Premier Shimon Peres are no exception.

Peres' proposals suggested from the UN rostrum this week in New York, provided little new in the way of a change in the Israeli official position. This maintenance of the *status quo*, so to speak, was confirmed by no less than Peres' Likud partners in the coalition government.

As has been the style in recent years, peace initiatives have been enthusiastically suggested after a political or military setback to one of the parties concerned. The international community took advantage of the Arabs' defeat in 1967 to suggest UN Resolution 242. After the October 1973 war, an international conference was called in Geneva but failed. Later the United States was able to sponsor Sadat's initiative through the Camp David Accords. More recently, US President Ronald Reagan suggested a peace plan on September 1, 1982, immediately after the PLO was driven out of Beirut. The Arabs for their part also provided a peace plan during the Arab summit in Fez, Morocco in the winter of 1982.

After the routing of the PLO from Tripoli, Lebanon, in 1983, the PLO redoubled its efforts to reach an accord with Jordan and in February 1985, Arafat and Hussein signed a joint accord presenting the world with a Jordanian-Palestinian peace initiative. And now with the latest setbacks to the PLO as a result of the *Achille Lauro* hijacking and the British rebuff of PLO members, Israel is trying a shot at a new version of a peace initiative.

A closer look at Peres' plan summarised in his speech at the UN shows that the plan calls for: direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states (no room for the PLO), direct negotiations based on UN Resolution 242, direct negotiations supported by international forum if necessary, and direct negotiations with Jordan and possibly Palestinians as long as the delegates are 'known' to represent "peace, not terror." Peres suggested that such talks could begin before the end of this year in Israel or Jordan or any other country.

For Palestinians, Peres' plan ignores some basic points and is vague on others. The Israeli prime minister's plan avoids entirely even the mention of the PLO. By suggesting that talks take place between states in the region, Peres has cleverly given the PLO not the slightest consideration. Although Peres alludes to the need of solving the Palestinian problem, he is clear about having it solved through a separate peace treaty with Jordan.

According to Peres' plan, negotiations with Jordan can take place with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. But Peres did not explain who he expects to represent the Palestinians. In Peres' eyes, the PLO is not a candidate because their delegates represent "terror" not "peace". But according to Peres' reasoning, even members of his own government could not qualify because their support of 'terror' is well-known. The latest example of this is Israel's officially-sponsored bombing of PLO headquarters in Tunis in which at least 25 Tunisians were killed. For sure Peres' coalition partners would not qualify. The record of Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon on acts of violence against innocent civilians has been sufficiently documented.

Israel's strategy *vis-a-vis* peace with the Arabs has always been to deal with each state separately. Israel was successful with Egypt and even signed a peace treaty with Lebanon which appeared at first to succeed but later failed. Now Israel is trying to get Jordan to sign a similar separate arrangement.

Peres did not, however, have to wait long for an answer. The Syrian and Jordanian prime ministers meeting in Riyadh almost immediately issued a joint statement rejecting any separate peace treaty and insisting on the 1982 peace plan approved by the Arab leaders in Fez.

Obviously 'peace' figures highly in Peres' plan, but 'land' was never mentioned. Peres wants peace, but has shown no readiness to provide occupied land in return. No mention is made of withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza. No wonder Peres' coalition partners who are opposed to any withdrawals have approved his plan. The only possible indirect mention of withdrawal can be seen in UN Resolutions 242 and 338 which Peres wants to be the basis of negotiations. Israel insists, however, that the resolution's mention of withdrawal does not mean withdrawal from all territories occupied in 1967. Israel contends that UN Security Council Resolution 242 calls for "withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967," and not from *the* territories occupied in 1967.

Perhaps the most humorous of all aspects of Peres' plan is his second point which states "neither party may impose preconditions." Peres then goes on to specify a number of conditions without which Israel would not enter negotiations. 'Facts' on the ground and decisions made in the Israeli Knesset are preconditions already set by Israel. Are the settlements negotiable? No. Is Jerusalem negotiable? No. Is a Palestinian entity negotiable? No.

Publicity Stunt

Shimon Peres has followed the steps of his predecessors. He has refused to deal with the representatives of the Palestinian people or to recognise their national rights. Instead he has become adept at 'making proposals' which have no more weight than a publicity stunt.

As long as Palestinian rights and representation are not properly addressed, no peace plan has a chance of success. In fact, the former Israeli cabinet spokesperson from the Likud properly summarised Peres' speech. "The speech contained little that is really new. There were lots of nice words in it," Dan Meridor told Israel TV. The main target of Peres' speech was indeed the US government and the American people. And the Americans who are easily taken in by a 'nice' word, fell for it and sincerely praised Peres' speech. The same US officials who praised Peres had only two weeks ago praised Hussein's speech despite the major differences between the two proposals.

Peres' speech will not bring chances of peace any closer. The most probable result of his speech will, however, be a continuation of the no-peace, no-war situation. And this is exactly what Israel wants. ■

Daoud Kuttab is the managing editor of Al Fajr *Weekly.*

AL FAJR invites our readers to contribute letters, articles and opinions. Contributions must be signed, but names may be withheld upon request.

In Light of US - Israeli 'Heroism'

Now is the Time for Unity

by Khalil Touma

We wish to extend our thanks to Washington and Tel Aviv for their heroic deeds. Once again, they have reminded the world of their undefeatable might. This reminder was desperately needed on the eve of the fourtieth anniversary of the United Nations, especially since most of its members have become high-minded and have incited long buried ideas of freedom and equality which threaten to usher in a new era of riots against the angelic masters.

Apparently most of those members have forgotten that the USA is the "greatest" and that it can easily locate a civilian plane flying in the night and catch it "within one hour's notice" from the master of the White House. It is also apparent that those newly-freed members have forgotten that the long Israeli arm can reach anywhere — be it a prize in the cupboard of Nobel, an atomic reactor in Baghdad, or even an office in Tunisia.

Now that things are very clear and the decoded messages of both Washington and Tel Aviv have reached the Arab capitals, putting an end to the daydream of some leaders who chose to bury their heads in the barren sands, the lessons of this October should be thoroughly comprehended by the Arab people.These Arab leaders have long beaten their people over the head with the propaganda concerning a 'positive' change of attitude in Israel and the US. In Washington, the change is said to come from the second term of Reagan's presidency which is alleged to give him immunity from the dangerous influence of the American Jewish lobby. In Tel Aviv, the change is reportedly due to the moderate *Mr Peres and the Israeli Labour Party now at the head of the government.*

Indeed, there has been a change and rather a big one. The US is no longer pleased with the February Amman Agreement between the official leadership of the PLO and the Jordanian government, on the basis of which a meeting was supposed to take place between Murphy and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in September. Even the acrobatic behaviour of Camp David Mubarak is not tolerated any more. The US is no longer satisfied with just a piece of the cake, it now wants it all — a full, clear, approved surrender and the head of the Palestinian leadership on a silver tray.

The devastation following the Israeli raid on PLO's Tunisian headquarters October 1./AFP photo.

The three major events this month which shook the world over are proof of just the beginning of a raging tide of similar practices to come. Israel's bombing of the PLO offices in Tunisia, the American hijacking of the Egyptian plane and the last minute British cancellation of the meeting with Palestinians within the joint delegation are but links in a chain which reflect the clearly aggressive policy of the imperialistic forces which deny the right of the Palestinians to live in peace in their own independent state. All assurances by the Palestinians that they want such a peace and are ready to actively participate in achieving it have been rudely turned away.

These imperialistic forces have never wanted to hear the Palestinians talk about peace. It naturally contradicts their oft-repeated propaganda in which they have defamed the Palestinians as 'terrorists'. The aim of such propaganda is quite clear — it is to exclude the Palestinians who are the core of the Middle East conflict from any possible settlement, thus no doubt facilitating this attempt to integrate the region into the imperialistic strategy and plan for ages to come.

Hence, the revival of the false allegations of Palestinian terrorism become necessary. This, however, proves again that it is not really peace which these forces are looking for but rather surrender of the Palestinians and their allies in the Arab national movement. Indeed the hijacking of the *Achille Lauro* has supplied such propagandists with so much fuel that the murderous Israeli bombing of Tunisia has almost been erased from the memory of world opinion in less than two weeks. But to any objective judgment the *Achille Lauro* should not be taken into account, because the Palestinians strongly condemned it and were preparing to try the hijackers, had it not been for the "heroic" American hijacking of the Egyptian plane.

Now the American-Israeli policy in the Middle East is clear. There is no role for the PLO in the following scenario, and the Amman agreement which opened the gate and allowed the Jordanian regime into the Palestinian yard reviving Jordanian influence in the occupied territories at the expense of the PLO itself has already achieved its goal. Now it is the Jordanian regime which is to proceed alone without the PLO. This regime has already been provided with an excuse to break the agreement with the official PLO leadership — the supposed Palestinian "terrorism". Signs of the Jordanian regime turning its back on the PLO were seen in the recent Hussein visit to the US. He strongly condemned "terrorism" while only mildly attacking the Tunisia bombing. These signs can also be seen in his support of Britain's stand on the cancellation of the meeting with the Palestinian members in the joint delegation.

Now, things should also be very clear to those Palestinians who were hoping to get positive results from the US and Israel following their approach to the Jordanian regime. This *rapprochement* has proved damaging for the Palestinians. It has instead encouraged more repudiation of the Palestinians' rights and more imperialistic arrogance and aggression.

Now is the time to do without it and to look for strength within the unity of the Palestinians themselves, the unlimited support of the Arab national movement, and the allies of the Palestinian struggle the world over in the international liberation movement. This is the only alternative to avoid being dragged into the mud. ■

Khalil Touma is an Al Fajr *staff member*

Arab Leaders Should Stop their Distractive Roar

by Mohammed Tarbush

PARIS — After the attack on Tunisia, Arab leaders reacted to Israel's violation of the sovereignty of yet another Arab state with the usual rhetoric. Their publics observe such theatrics with disdain, asking cynically how many Israeli casualties have fallen victim to the latest assault of Arab verbal missiles.

After the creation of Israel in 1948, while its successive governments settled down to real business creating more and more "facts" every day, Arab leaders developed a reflex that has become a ritual. Rather than take any measures that might ultimately undo or at least contain some of these "facts," they content themselves with issuing "strongly worded" protests that warn the enemy against "dire" consequences.

What the victims of agression mostly need is concrete action, a helping hand they can touch, not a pledge of any country's ink and paper resources.

Arab rhetoric has been as harmful to the Palestinians as Israel's phosphoric bombs and F-15s. It provided Israel with the national cohesion it so badly needed. It became an endless source of the propaganda material that Israel has used so well for cultivating the sympathy of Western public opinion. More tragically, it has led to the demoralisation of the Arab people.

Preparations for the proclaimed battle of liberation have gone on forever. Costly and sophisticated arsenals have been bought and left to rust in warehouses. Arab soldiers are entrenched around their capitals ready to crush any internal threat to their rulers, as the national borders remain open to outside adventurers.

Israel fought wars and won them. It displaced more people and acquired territory three times its original size. It made Jerusalem its capital and violated the so-called sovereignty of Arab states as it pleased — all of this without one Arab leader resigning from office for failure to protect the national interest; all without a toning down of the jarring rhetoric; all without halting the outflow of strongly worded messages. Having lost faith in the leadership, the average Arab is now apathetic, more interested in simple survival or, in favoured cases, in accumulating wealth that neither he nor his descendants could ever live long enough to spend.

Of course, such a state of affairs could only be transitional. But it might be years before this hypnotised lion starts stirring again.

In the meantime it would be more dignified for the leaders of the Arab world to make peace with Israel, if only because they cannot, indeed will not make war. Future generations will curse them for treason in signing away a sacred part of their native land. None will have a monument bearing his name in the market square. But this course of action, which might put an end to human sufferings and tragic losses of life, is certainly more honourable than the barrage of humiliating blows being delivered to the Arab people with every Israeli invasion and bombardment.

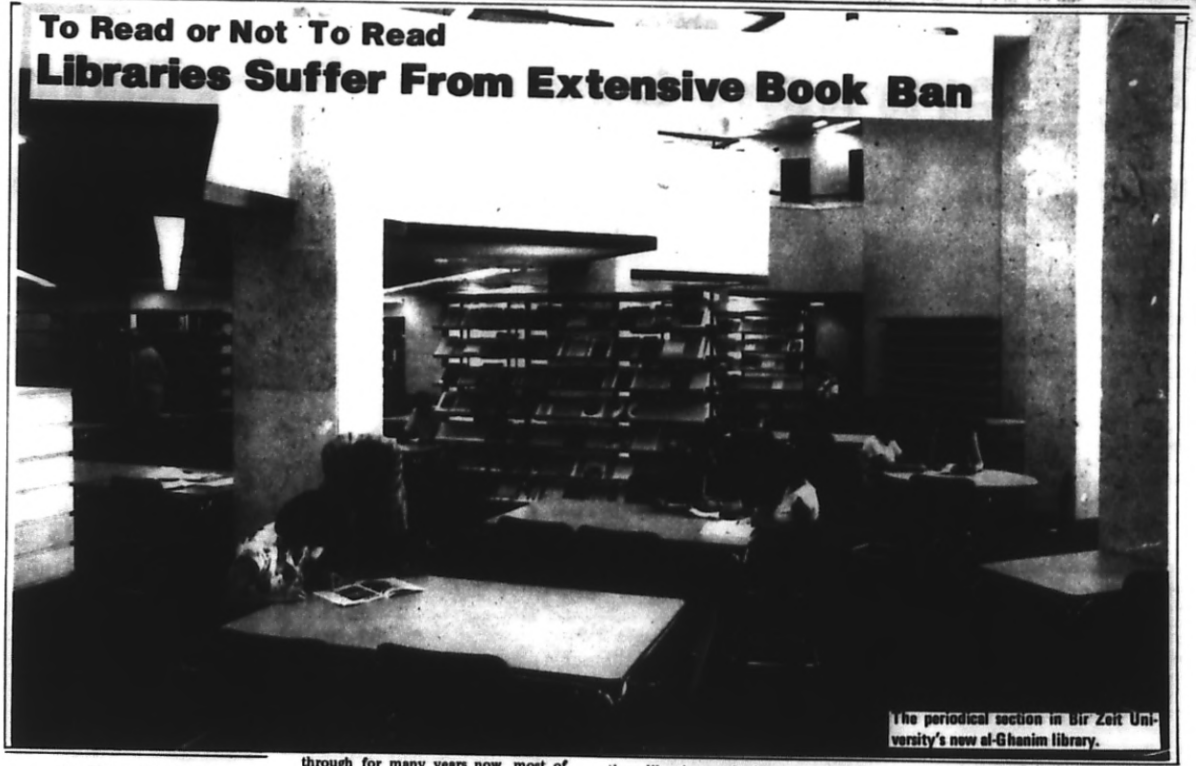
Above all, a settlement of the Palestinian problem would deprive Arab regimes of a pretext for blocking out serious reforms and suppressing basic liberties.

For Israelis, peace remains the biggest threat to national cohesion. With no external threat, imagined or real, holding their social structure together, deep-rooted contradictions within their heterogeneous society will surface and ultimately undermine the stability of the state. Zionism will at last manifest its futility.

For the Palestinians, to give up a slice of their traditional homeland will never be acceptable, but in the long term they can only benefit from a new situation that might bring the Arab world out of its present stagnation and deprive the Israelis of a ready pretext for manipulating world opinion and for committing all kinds of violations in the name of national security. ■

The writer is an investment banker and commentator on Middle Eastern affairs. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune, *October 11.*

To Read or Not To Read
Libraries Suffer From Extensive Book Ban



The periodical section in Bir Zeit University's new al-Ghanim library.

by Maher Abukhater

Libraries have always been the pride of cultured societies. Arab history is full of stories of *caliphs* encouraging reading and building libraries. Stories were told of *caliphs* who built libraries in public parks to encourage people to make use of the facility while on a picnic. Reading was enjoyable and fun equivalent to playing in a park.

Today's Palestinians are still as enthused about reading as was the Arab nation during its 'golden age'. Yet their opportunities for making use of local libraries are less. In the West Bank, Palestinians at all levels have shown an interest in reading. But the presence of the Israeli occupation for 18 years has hindered the growth of libraries and limited to a great extent the kinds of books read by the public at large. The list of books Israel bans in the occupied territories includes a variety ranging from children's books to literature to political writings. This list is endless and the military reserves the right to include any book it wants. It is thus obvious that the occupying power prefers to keep the people it rules in ignorance to make ruling them easier.

The Israeli ban on books, all of which are Arabic, has left West Bank libraries either half empty or stocked primarily with English books. At the public libraries, which are run by the local municipalities, the books on the shelves are academic texts. They are either science books, foreign literary works, or novels. Students who want to write a political research paper, let us say on some aspect of the Palestinian issue, will not be able to find a single book in any of these public libraries. Since the public libraries are financed by the ruling government, they therefore are empty of political books the government considers 'dangerous'.

This policy has had a two-fold impact. First, users of public libraries have been kept in the dark regarding most of modern Palestinian writings. Because of the political situation the Palestinian people have been living through for many years now, most of the modern works reflect this situation and aspire for freedom and independence. As a result, a large number of the Palestinian works are banned in the West Bank. This is true for Palestinian or Arab political periodicals like the Journal of Palestine Studies and Arab political writings not necessarily related to the Palestinian issue but discussing Arab nationalism in general.

Second, the number of users of public libraries is significantly low if compared to the area's population. At the East Jerusalem Public Library, in 1984 a total of 327 paid members of the library were registered. Of these 107 were children and the rest adults. Considering that a small annual fee of a little less than US 15 dollars is required to borrow books, one expects that certainly more than 327 persons of an East Jerusalem population of 100,000 would subscribe to the public library.

It can be assumed that people find little use for government-supported public libraries in the occupied territories because they do not fulfil readers' needs. Based on information gathered earlier from publishing houses in East Jerusalem, demand is high for Palestinian and Arabic political writings, particularly those relating to the Palestinian issue. When a library lacks these books, its attendance naturally dwindles.

In contrast, academic libraries attract a large number of readers, particularly researchers. At the newly-built Bir Zeit University library, students of the university and other institutions have made use of its facilities at a rate higher than expected, according to the library director, Aida Haddad. Bir Zeit library, named Yousef al-Ghanim library after the Kuwaiti businessman whose company donated money towards its construction, houses a total of 85,000 volumes and 570 periodicals. The library is built to take in another 40,000 to 60,000 volumes.

Al-Ghanim library, like other West Bank libraries of academic institutions, suffers as well from Israeli military measures against Arabic political books. But because of their academic nature, these libraries emphasise more scholarly books necessary for research in all fields. This selection of books on the shelves is what attracts students and researchers, as well as interested readers. Al-Ghanim library is currently the most advanced in the West Bank run by a professional crew with accredited Library Science degrees. It soon will include a special microfilm and microfiche section and a reference section to be used by the general public who can call in for specific information.

In addition to the public and academic libraries, the West Bank has small private and specialised libraries, as well as cultural centers representing foreign countries. The specialised libraries are primarily found in denominational institutions, whether Muslim or Christian. The Muslim *Waqf* has a special library located within al-Aqsa Mosque compound that concentrates on Islamic history and literature. The Ecumenical Institute for Theological Research at Tantur just outside Bethlehem specialises in religious studies. Scholars of theology find it valuable for research on Christianity and all areas related to it. There are other denominational libraries that concentrate on matter pertaining to the teaching of their church.

Foreign countries also encourage the opening of cultural centres to act as informational ambassadors. In East Jerusalem, the British Council is one example. Even though it is fully financed by the British government, the British Council maintains that it is "not a government department" but an "independent body established by Royal Charter". The British Council, whose goal is "to promote an enduring understanding and appreciation of Britain in other countries through cultural, educational and technical co-operation," includes a library that stresses English scientific and literature works and an audio-visual section. The British Council also engages in other activities like granting scholarships for Palestinians seeking higher education in England. According to Musa Sahar, director of the British Council, 25 persons benefit every year from the scholarship programme. The centre also sponsors courses in teaching Library Science to local librarians.

While most of the local libraries are highly academic or promoting a foreign country, a new attempt was launched this year to reach children. A book mobile sponsored by the Palestinian Councelling Centre travels to remote West Bank villages where it sets up libraries assisted by a resident association. Jamal Talab, one of the organisers of this effort, said the book mobile is an attempt to reach the children and help them read. He said that due to shortage of libraries catering to children, especially in the villages, this idea of a book mobile was developed. The result is already encouraging, said Talab. He said a large number of children have shown interest in reading when books are made available to them.

The book mobile currently has 500 books and is expecting more soon. Organisers of this effort hope to expand their visits to beyond the Hebron and Bethlehem villages to which they currently travel. The idea of a book mobile is not really a new one. The East Jerusalem Public Library used to have a similar arrangement which catered only to Jerusalem area villages. The book mobile operated for seven years. Last year it was stopped following budget cuts by the Jerusalem municipality. The budget cuts affected other services of the library as well, such as library branches in Jerusalem neighbourhoods. A branch in the village of Silwan was closed down, another in the Old City will be closed early November and a third in Beit Hanina opens only for a couple of hours a day.

The main loser in this whole affair are the lay people who want to read good material but cannot find it in their public libraries. These people also are unable to use the more specialised academic libraries which carry mainly English books. There is no change in sight in which the general public will become more interested in reading since the libraries currently do not meet their needs. ■

Palestinian Education Misses The Mark

With No Jobs, Too Few University Seats Students Face No Win Situation

by Said al-Ghazali

1984 graduates of the *tawjihi* at Frere's College in Jerusalem.

Nursing students at al-Bireh's Arab College of Nursing.

It is obvious that the original goal of education in Palestine to prepare students for higher study and eventual employment in the occupied territories and Arab world has not been met. In fact it has failed. The reason is two-fold. The six Palestinian universities and the 14 community colleges in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are barely able to absorb 5000 students of the 13,000 who complete the matriculation exam (*tawjihi*) each year after successfully completing their general secondary school curriculum. In addition to the too-few positions in local universities and colleges, there are also no jobs available in the market not only for the remaining 8000 but also for those graduating with baccalaureate degrees.

The *tawjihi* graduates not accepted in the universities or community colleges are left to take proper decisions regarding their future despite the absence of any constructive avenues. Yet, there are a number of bad choices: to look for manual labour, to travel abroad in pursuit of an expensive education and/or wealth, or to sit at home cursing life and the world in general. Many such students — doomed to make their way in the world with no wealth, education or particular skills — are easy prey for despair. Yet all the talks, forums, empty *intellectual discussions* and *committees for steadfastness funds the students* have read about in the newspapers or heard on radio and TV offer no practical solutions to their looming crisis.

For the thousands of *tawjihi* graduates education is no longer an escape-route out of poverty. The dissociation between education and employment continues to grow in the occupied territories leaving an approximate 12,000 graduates unemployed. Yet with no alternative in the bottleneck of economic recession, political instability and continual setback, Palestinians can do nothing but continue to grasp education despite its severe limitations.

"The increase in the number of *tawjihi* graduates from 3178 students in 1968 to 13,832 graduates in 1984 indicates an unstable yet rapid growth pattern," said Dr. Fathiya Nasru, a lecturer in the Department of Education at Bir Zeit University. This growth, however, has not been met by an increase in opportunities for the students. Statistics indicate that not more than three percent of secondary school students are enrolled in the fields of vocational, commercial or agricultural studies. The great majority of students, 97 percent in fact, are enrolled either in the literary or scientific tracks, meaning they are channelled toward college. However, the openings in colleges have not grown as quickly as the figures Nasru mentioned. The absorption capacity in the universities and community colleges, says Nasru, leave 48 percent of graduates out of these academic institutions.

Nasru raised an important point which is whether we need to assume that each high school graduate deserves higher education. The problem lies, says Nasru, in the lack of a national plan to provide for the 48 percent, either in higher educational programmes or in other useful positions in society. Meanwhile, what do these students do while they wait for such a plan?

Crisis in Perspective

A few years ago Maqassed Hospital *initiated a nursing programme to train no more than 20 students in nursing in a* two-year course. The purpose was to supply the hospital with assistant nurses. Every year no more than 50 persons applied, allowing the hospital administration to choose students in accordance with the marks they received on the *tawjihi*.

This year, however, 1200 *tawjihi* graduates applied for the nursing school. Mahmoud Hebiyeh, director of Maqassed, said that among those who applied to be assistant nurses are two graduates who received excellent marks of 87 and 89. Usually such students do not apply to be nurses, an occupation not considered prestigious in the Arab world. The hospital administration in order to cope with the crisis offered an exam to judge the students' ability in the English language. They then chose 123 students to sit for the exam. The students were selected in accordance with their marks in English in the *tawjihi* exam.

After the exam at the hospital, the number of students was reduced to 36. The 36 students were asked to sit for an interview leading to the eventual selection of 20.

Dar el-Tifl College, which offers higher education in the literary track only, used a different method to choose 90 students out of 169 who applied to study Arabic, English or Social Studies.

All the recent graduates with whom we discussed this sensitive issue are unable to put forward a plan for their future. Some are now retaking the exam in hope of a higher mark. Once again everything could collapse if they fail the exam. Yet if they succeed in getting a good mark other significant obstacles emerge such as an opening in the university or college, tuition payment, coping with the instability of the universities and colleges which are frequently attacked or closed down by Israeli authorities, and other countless difficulties which climax with the realisation that there are no jobs to be found.

Ayman Hosni Barakat from Jerusalem successfully completed his secondary school curriculum with an average of 59 percent. Thus he is forced to wash cars since he cannot get into any university or cannot afford tuition at the expensive community colleges. The college fees range from JD200 to 400 (US 500 to 1000 dollars), a considerable amount in the occupied territories.

In spite of her obvious cleverness, Jamileh Hussein, a Palestinian student who was born and reared in Columbia, has encountered considerable difficulty with the educational system and its emphasis on memorisation. Having come back to her home village of Kobar late in her education she, as well as her sisters, have found difficulty in learning Arabic. Jamileh's average in the *tawjihi* was low. Finding no other avenue, she decided to take the exam again in the current scholastic year. So ambitious, Jamileh wants to study medicine, yet is also aware of the obstacles. "Perhaps I would study chemistry, if I get no scholarship to study abroad," she said.

Last year, her sister Laila was unfortunate in the *tawjihi*. She obviously failed as she was unable to write well essays or opinions in Arabic. She is trying to take a special examination in Spanish through the Spanish Consulate as she plans to study law in Spain. Meanwhile, she is taking a secretarial course at the YMCA.

In 1982/83, Majdi Zughair graduated from the Industrial Secondary School in Jerusalem. His mark on *tawjihi* was an excellent 83 and his major was joinery and mechanics. Zughair wants to study mechanical engineering. He applied to Bir Zeit University but was not accepted because the university does not accept an average below 90 percent for engineering. So set on becoming an engineer, Zughair refused a scholarship offered to him by the Polytechnic in Hebron. "I want to be an engineer and not an assistant engineer," Zughair said. Thus he applied to the Jordanian University but also received a negative response. Zughair's only other options were to go to a European country or the United States or to run his family shop on Salah ed-Din Street in Jerusalem. He chose the latter. Zughair said, "I thought that it would be a waste of time if I spent four to five years studying at a university in vain. Eventually, I would still have no job." There are 350 unemployed engineers in the West Bank. However, in light of the economic recession, Zughair is regretting his decision. "I should have gone to the USA," he said.

His brother Hamdi is a marine engineer in Shareqa in the Arab Gulf. He got a job there in the Arab Emirate fleet and decided not to come back to his homeland. Zughair cited examples of his classmates and their future. "Out of the 100 graduates, 15 students pursued their studies at Hebron and Amman Polytechnics, and only one person went to the Soviet Union to study computer engineering, two other graduates went to the United States. Ramzi Seder from Jericho who got an 84 is now working in a baking oven in Jericho. Talat Mughrabi, whose average was 84.5 is now a farm labourer in Jericho. More than 50 percent of my classmate graduates are jobless."

"You want to know what I would like to study? I want to be a lawyer to actively participate in defending justice and maintaining law," said Reham Qudsi from Dar el-Tifl School. She is retaking the exam because she failed last year. "Yet," she added, "I know there is no law college in the occupied territories. My sister encouraged me to study business, but if I fail again, I will join my three brothers who study medicine in the United States or I'll get married."

Suheir Abu Sneineh, who got a 63 percent average last year but failed because her average in Arabic was less than the minimum, wants to take a secretarial course. Yet her family put pressure on her to do the *tawjihi* exam again. They want her to study at the university. "If they insist in sending me to university," said Suheir, "I would study sociology."

Hanna, a student at the Lutheran School in Ramallah, sat for the exam last year but quit in mid-term because he thought he did not do well on the first English exam. Later he discovered that he passed the English. Hanna, who is a literary student, now says he wants to study electricity in Germany and to join his brother there. "Perhaps I will be an accountant, if things go well," he said. "I do not care. The most important thing is that I have a profession and a job." Two students from Hanna's 33 classmates travelled to the United States to pursue higher education, five failed the exam, one person joined Bir Zeit University, and seven girl students went to study secretarial skills at the YMCA in Jerusalem. He does not know what happened to the rest.

Mansour Badr, who failed the exam in 1982, is planning to take it again. Since 1982, he has done odd jobs here and there. Badr wants to study sociology. He listed the obstacles he will encounter in the future, "First I have to pass the exam and score a high average to be admitted to a college. Second, I want to search for an institute that would pay the tuition fees for me. I cannot imagine what would happen later," Badr said. "My father is an orderly in a hospital in Jerusalem and he cannot finance my education. The only benefit I gained during the last four years was meeting a lot of people."

Palestinian Education

The goal of Palestinian education was originally to supply employees with bureaucratic skills to run the government offices in Jordan or the Arab Gulf. Thus, originally it was not created to correspond to the socio-economic needs of Palestinian society. The educational school system is divided into three levels: elementary (grades one to six), preparatory (grades seven to nine) and secondary (grades 10 to 12). The *tawjihi* was set in 1960 for post-secondary school entry. The emphasis was placed on rote-memorisation rather than on independent thought.

The entire programme of education was and still is planned by the Ministry of Education in Jordan. The local Palestinian educators were prevented from organising or playing a part in the policy making or the creating of programmes. Ibrahim Dakkak, director of the Arab Thought Forum in Jerusalem, quotes a British official in Palestine during the mandatory rule who told him that he was "mostly concerned with graduating uncreative Palestinian clerks." Dakkak said there is a great gap between social and economic developments and Palestinian education which consequently remained static. "The school education programmes have not been formulated to meet the social and cultural needs of our society," Dakkak said. "Here in the occupied territories, we do not have sufficient information or statistics to make proper studies and the liberty to reorganise our educational system."

Many students and *tawjihi* graduates echo similar cricitisms. "The educational system and examinations judge our rote-memorisation abilities," they said. Few sufficient teaching aids are used in schools to help students understand or enhance their scientific ability. Many students complained that some teachers only pass on information and never allow for the individual problems of their students.

Veteran educator Subhi Shahrouri from Tulkarm said that teachers are given heavy burdens and forced to teach many lessons with only meagre salaries, then rewarded with strict orders." He recalled the government teachers' strike from December 1980 to February 1981. The authorities are also still refusing to endorse the establishment of the General Committee of West Bank Government School Teachers. Hassan Qeek, secretary of the Council of Higher Education (CHE) which was formed in 1977 to reform Palestinian education, was made ineffective by the Israeli authorities who attempted to interfere in the universities' education. However, the CHE is still at its first stage.

University Education

Education at local universities is autonomous from the Jordanians. But the programmes available at the universities contribute little to aspects of socio-economic development. Dakkak criticised the universities' curriculums which have "little correlation to the needs of our society."

Contrary to this view, Hassan Qeek said that "after 1967, the Palestinian educators held a lot of debates on the issue of whether to educate our sons and daughters or not. Since then I have maintained that we offer education to students irrespective of the jobs available." Qeek said that in fact all the six universities — Bir Zeit, established in 1972; Nablus (1977); Hebron (1980); Bethlehem (1973); Jerusalem (made up of various colleges each established by different administrations); and Gaza Islamic University — have no more than 13,000 students.

Industrial Education

At present industrial education cannot solve the problem. It does not attract more than three percent of the students in both preparatory and secondary schools. There are only seven industrial secondary schools in Nablus, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Tulkarm. Five local institutions offer professional training in various crafts to students in preparatory. They have nine

Continued on page 15

Secondary school students at Dar el-Tifl School in Jerusalem.

The new campus of Abu Dis College of Science and Technology.

International Journalists Discuss Israeli Censorship

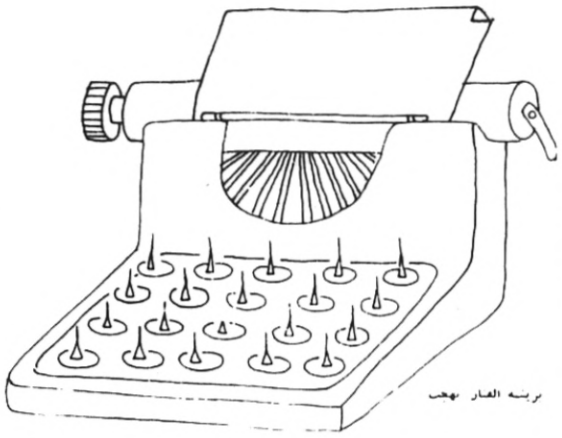
The following summation of a report by the International Federation of Journalists on Israeli censorship was written by Roman Frister, a senior correspondent for HaAretz *Hebrew daily. Frister, who is currently Israel's representative on the federation's presidium, published this report October 4. All quotations from the report are from the Hebrew rendering.*

. . . The report submitted by a specially appointed committee of the International Federation of Journalists (consisting of representatives from Norway, Belgium and Denmark) which visited Israel, contains a chapter on the constitutional situation in this country. The three guests were acquainted with a sweepingly broad, bleak set of laws and emergency regulations "which are unexampled in any other democratic country."

Yet the main subject of the committee's scrutiny was not the constitutional aspects of the matter, but a war of attrition being waged far from public perception, a war which has reduced *ad absurdum* the relations between the governing authorities and the Arab media. The censor's scissors and closure orders on the one hand — Palestinian national fervour on the other hand. "I find it difficult to comprehend the logic behind the Israeli government's position," said one of the committee members in a moment of friendly candour. "On the one hand you allow Palestinian elements to publish newspapers and weeklies, and on the other hand you harass them daily. If the occupation authorities prohibited the publication of some Arab-Palestinian newspaper, we would perhaps rise in protest — but we would also understand. Have you forgotten that you can't eat the cake and have it too?"

The three committee members repeated this question in their meetings with administration officials. They met with many such officials since the government of Israel decided to let the international committee function with no restrictions. This was a wise decision which contributed to an understanding of the complexity of the situation. The report quotes extensively from Colonel Yoel Singer, head of the international law department in the military advocate's office: "We must not forget that we are in a state of war with the neighbouring Arab countries, and the struggle between Israel and the Palestinians is continuing. The PLO and other organisations strive to control the Arab newspapers in Jerusalem in order to use them as a part of their struggle against Israel. These organisations are defined by Israeli law as terrorist organisations and contact with them is forbidden. You must understand that we are living in a situation in which there are no physical borders between Israel and the territories. This reality, in the absence of uniformity of legislation, turns us into legalistic tightrope walkers, or like people trying to step between drops of water so as not to get wet."

On the other side of the fence, Akram Haniya, former chairman of the journalists' union in Jerusalem, is quoted, among others: "We do not ask for civil



رسمه العار بهجت

rights, because our matter is a national one. Even if a miracle were to happen and we gained full freedom of the press, we still would not have achieved the goal. Liberty is not indivisible. Only a national state led by the PLO will satisfy our demands."

With a perhaps unexpected objectivity, the thick report describes the state of warfare in which both sides lose their sense of proportion and exceed the bounds of rational considerations. National sentiments and mutual suspicions take the place of orderly administration and enlightened rule. From the testimonies they heard the committee members obtained the impression that the censor does not wield his scissors in order to protect state secrets — as is the case *vis-a-vis* the Hebrew press — but in order to strike at a clever and dangerous enemy. "The Israeli media decide for themselves what and when to submit for the censor's approval," the report's authors say, and go on to explain that when it comes to the East Jerusalem press the situation is different. "There, everything is submitted for approval, including crossword puzzles and commercial advertisements, and the material rejected amounts to around 25 percent and at times even more than this."

While the committee was in Jerusalem, the censorship blue-pencilled a news item on the meeting of the Swedish ambassador to Israel with representatives of the university in Nablus. Appended to the report is a list of rejections likely to evoke the amazement of any rational person: an item on an Egyptian tourist pickpocketed in the streets of Tel Aviv; an item on the establishment of a new settlement in Samaria; an item on the imposition of curfew on an Arab village in Judea; a quote from Israel Radio on the detention of the secretary of a student union; a message from Arafat to the president of Zimbabwe; a report on the closure of the university in Nablus; a report on a gathering of the Communist Party of Paris at which support was expressed for the Palestinian struggle; and, last but not least, an item on the arrival of the investigative committee itself and on the intention of the president of the International Federation of Journalists to hold its meeting in Israel.

For two years the Israeli members of the presidium (first Aharon Dolav in the summer of 1984, and then the present writer) tried to break the Arabs' resistance and have a meeting held in Israel. These efforts had the backing of the Foreign Ministry and other government institutions. The journalists federations in Tunisia, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon launched a counter-campaign. Personal pressures were applied on presidium members in Scandinavia, Holland and France. Pro-Soviet organisations issued condemnatory declarations. Despite all this, the meeting was held as planned, and it was from Tel Aviv that the federation's secretariat fired off an angry protest to the communist organisations concerning their attempts to intervene and prevent the meeting. It's difficult to grasp the logic behind the censorship's decision to strike out the report on a struggle which was ultimately successful. Among the "dangerous" material excised was a statement I gave to an *Al Fajr* reporter, asserting that the Israel Association of Journalists was ready to assist the investigative committee in its work, explaining the political background to the presidium's meeting in Tel Aviv, and announcing the Foreign Ministry's readiness to grant an entry permit to the Tunisian representative on the federation.

The Arabs of East Jerusalem and the territories don't need their newspapers in order to know what the censor wishes to conceal from them. A good deal of what he strikes out is published in the Israeli press and electronic media. And anyone not fluent in Hebrew can listen to the broadcasts emanating from Arab lands near and far. The voices of the Jordanian and Syrian announcers can be heard unrestrictedly all day and evening in the markets of the Old City and in every shop from Hebron to Jenin.

The committee's conclusion is that "all the problems of the press and of journalists in the administered territories and in East Jerusalem are but one component of a large and complex problem whose solution will be possible only at an international political level. At the same time, the military and civilian authorities must find an acceptable answer to repeated demands, and in the first place the demand that the censorship be meticulous in showing an equal attitude towards the Arab and Israeli press. In addition, a possibility must be found of acceding to the demand of the Arab journalists by granting them minimum recognition as media representatives. Currently they're treated as 'one more Arab'. We are definitely aware of the exaggeration of the Arabs who were interviewed. But we also do not disregard the exaggeration of the Israeli authorities who make a mountain out of a molehill and see a security danger in a place where everyone else finds it difficult to see." Concluding, the report quotes from a book by Meron Benvenisti: "The relations between the Israeli censorship and the Arab press are but one aspect of a life-and-death struggle for a homeland over which two peoples claim exclusive right. Palestinian freedom of expression will be rescued from the censor's scissors only when the two sides abandon the thesis that says they are engaged in a war which only one side can win."

[Once the report begins to gather dust following the presidium's meeting in Washington,] can we also breathe easier? Just as occupation itself corrodes the bases of our national morality so too do the arbitrariness and the power of the censor and of military government personnel erode the underpinnings of the democratic regime. This stick has no carrot but it does have two ends — and one of them is directed at ourselves. ■

JERUSALEM ARCHES

semi-circular arch | stilted arch | segmental arch | elliptical arch | equilateral arch | pointed horseshoe arch | trefoil or cusped arch | ogee arch

Drawings and Text
by Majed Nakfoury

The beautifully historic Old City of Jerusalem has perhaps one feature, architecturally speaking, that stands out from the rest — its arches. Wherever one looks — in the mosques, churches, alleyways — there are arches of all different size and shape.

The arch in itself has a history older than Jerusalem. It was first constructed by the Persians and by residents of the Tigris and Euphrates deltas around 5000 B.C. The Romans later used it and passed it on to the Greeks. The Egyptians borrowed it from the Greeks and from there it passed onto Arab Muslims who used it extensively throughout the early days of Islam.

Islamic architecture tended to favour the pointed arches. The most popular types are the equilateral and semi-circular arches.

In the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem there are many different types of arches dating back to Roman times. The most common arch in the church, however, is the semi-circular.

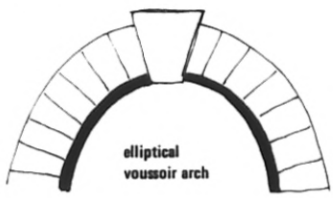
In Islamic architecture another type is very popular — the flated arch. It resembles the elliptical. In the Dome of the Rock mosque and courtyard of al-Aqsa many different kinds of arches can be seen. There is the *Mudabbab* which is really the equilateral arch. There is the horseshoe arch, some pointed and some not. There is the *Munkaser* arch similar to a flattened triangle which was popular in Persia. Then there is the *Maqsous* arch similar to the horseshoe but with raised stones around its edge.

Though principally used for their unique ability to hold up a tall structure, the Jerusalem arches serve to enchant the observer with their variety and mystery. Particularly for the foreign visitor or one not skilled in Islamic calligraphy, the arches afford mystery as to the meaning of the many inscriptions found on them.

A large number of the inscriptions are prayer niches or verses from the *Quran*. Often the calligraphy is particularly Arab in origin such as the *Kufic*, but some employ types used in Iran like the *Diwani*, *Naski* or *Thuluth*.

The arches are variously decorated with different coloured stones or with drawings of plants, fruits or geometrical design. Perhaps the most beautiful arch is the five-pointed curve which is used almost everywhere in the Old City.

Today arches are rarely used and have lost their practicality. It is also very costly to create a structure with beautifully graceful arches. Therefore, much is being done to preserve the ones we do have. The Islamic Archaeological Department of the Islamic *Waqf* is currently renovating those found in the area of the Dome of the Rock. After all, preserving the Old City's arches goes hand in hand with preserving the Arab spirit of Old Jerusalem. ■



elliptical voussoir arch

soffit cusping arch

fillet cusping arch

More elliptical arches frame this view of Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock.

An elliptical arch graces the doorway to the Assyrian Monastery in Jerusalem.

The aftereffects of the British decision not to meet with PLO representatives was evident in the articles and editorials of the local press this week. Palestinian papers extensively quoted PLO leaders in regards to the future relations between Jordan and the PLO.

Other topics receiving major coverage were the talks between the Syrian and Jordanian prime ministers, Shimon Peres' speech at the UN and Arafat's call to the Arab people to boycott American goods.

The Obstacles to the Joint Move

It has become clear in light of the latest developments and incidents that the Jordanian-Arafat joint move toward American solutions is facing obstacles despite claims by the [Palestinian] influential leadership to the contrary. Regardless of the source and aim of these obstacles, they came to the surface following the cancellation of the meeting with the British foreign minister. In view of this, all nationalist forces should work for the abolition of the Amman agreement and its consequences. A Palestinian mass rally should be held as soon as possible to demonstrate to the whole world our firm rejection of the rightist-leadership approach.

AL MITHAQ
October 17

We Shall Never Lose Faith

Once more we'd like to come back to the decision of the British Foreign Ministry to cancel the meeting with the joint PLO-Jordanian delegation. We should like to assert that the Palestinian people want a real and just peace which secures their legitimate rights. The suspicious attempts to brand these people with 'terrorism' will certainly be to no avail. It is impossible for anyone in his right senses to be mixed up between 'terrorism' and the efforts not only by the Palestinian people, but by all peoples in the world whose rights have been infringed upon. So, the Palestinian people will never pay attention to these malicious attempts. These people will never be frustrated. They will adhere more to their cause. As for the Palestinian leadership, scheduled to meet in Tunis soon, it should prove to the whole world the falseness of these accusations that our people are terrorists, and that the PLO is a mere 'gang of terrorists'

AL FAJR
October 18

Horrors Do No Exclude Anybody!

The US President Reagan met yesterday evening with Peres the Israeli Prime Minister. Peres' visit to Washington comes at the right time in view of the latest developments in the area. The time is convenient to both Israel and the US which are of the same opinion regarding the Middle East problem. But both countries should realise that these developments carry with them drastic changes that should be seriously taken into consideration. The visit should not be an opportunity to exchange congratulations. If the US and Israel think that time is ripe to impose a settlement, they are mistaken. The PLO-Jordanian move is an opportunity that will never avail itself if the US and Israel allow it to be missed. Should the US persist in its present position, it would bury this opportunity. And the horrors that would follow will include all parties.

AL QUDS
October 18

Arafat's Call

Arafat's call for a total Arab boycott of the US is the least the Arab nation could do. And if the Arab regimes are trying to vent the Arab people's wrath which followed American impudent terrorism and the war the Reagan administration declared, these attempts are no longer of any use and they will not be accepted by anybody. Even Washington seems to be uninterested in rendering even lip-service to its allies and agents in the area. It rudely declares its programs and aims and it is up to the pro-America Arabs to manage.

We are sure Arafat's call will be ignored by the Arab states. And we are sure we shall hear further justifications for the American practices. There will be more oppression against the Arab masses. But any objective observer can notice a quantitative change in the Arab street. Such a change will be difficult to stop or put off. It is an historical event, and the outcome of a persistent struggle to remove rot from the Arab surface.

AL SHA'AB
October 19

The Cairo Demonstrations

Demonstrations continued in Cairo yesterday. And the Egyptian president deliberately delayed meeting with the American envoy. Meanwhile *al-Ahram* paper said that the envoy's mission cannot be achieved easily. And if there is tension in the US-Egyptian relations, there is also a remarkable escalation in the methods of suppressing the uprising. The only conclusion could be that Mubarak will take advantage of what is happening to improve his position in the sphere of his relations with the US.

AL SHA'AB
October 21

Peres' 'Initiative' and So-Called Peace

All the 'peace' initiatives presented by Israel emphasise the use of an old method offering settlements that cannot be accepted by anyone. We should understand this new Israeli initiative in this context. The Israeli prime minister did not offer anything new. But the international community will not be deceived by this new alleged Israeli tendency toward peace. Without the PLO there can be no peace. If Israel thinks that it can get peace in the Jordanian side only, it is mistaken. If Israel is really serious in its search for peace, it should accept the international resolutions and the idea of an international conference. When will Israel understand these facts?

AL FAJR
October 22

Omission of Facts Does Not Mean They Are Non-Existent

In his speech before the UN Shimon Peres talked about the possibility of initiating a peace process in the Middle East. He made a number of suggestions for starting negotiations. But when he referred to the Palestinians he failed to specify their identity. He deliberately left out the PLO. The Israeli prime minister and the Israeli policy makers realise that the Arabs have been trying to push the peace process for years after they had agreed to Fez resolutions to which the PLO was a party. The second point of Peres' suggestions stress the need of not having preconditions. But he himself put Israeli preconditions when he talked about a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The omission of the PLO does not mean that its role can be overlooked. There is surely a chance for peace represented by the Palestinians' consent to sit around the negotiation table. These Palestinians have a recognised leadership, that is the PLO. Israel and the US have to face facts if they are really interested in peace.

AL QUDS
October 22

Peres' Plan

Continued from page 1

Shawwa, referring to Peres' refusal to discuss the settlements.

"There is absolutely no way, no forum to substitute the PLO," Shawwa asserted once again, then adding that he does not believe that Jordan will violate the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

Haidar Abd al-Shafi, head of the Red Crescent Society in Gaza, said: "Peres brought nothing new to his proposal. He is denying our national and natural rights. Yet Jordan and the Amman agreement face a critical test. If Jordan finds something positive in Peres' speech, then it will be a catastrophe. Arafat also faces a critical test. He should understand the connotations of this message and rush to maintain the national unity among Palestinians." Abd al-Shafi also did not rule out the possibility that there are some Palestinians in the occupied territories who would adopt the Jordanian position no matter what it is.

Hanna Siniora, member of the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation originally scheduled to meet US Envoy Richard Murphy said, "The only thing positive in Peres' UN address is the conclusion that the Israeli-Arab conflict cannot be solved by the means of war but through political negotiations. What is glaringly lacking is the role of the Palestinians and their leadership. Without PLO participation, there is no peace."

Mustafa Natsheh, the former Deputy Mayor of Hebron, asserted that if the PLO does not participate in the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, there will never be peace in the region.

Editor of *Al Mithaq* newspaper, Mahmoud al-Khatib, also asserted that no peace in the region will be reached without the participation and endorsement of all Palestinian factions. "It will be a failure if there is no unanimous Palestinian position," he said.

The PLO Reaction

PLO Spokesperson Ahmad Abd al-Rahman in Tunis rejected Peres' plan and labelled it "a new copy of Camp David." Abd al-Rahman affirmed that the PLO calls for the convening of an international conference which all parties to the conflict including the PLO will attend on an equal basis. Abd al-Rahman also asserted that all the permanent members in the UN Security Council including the Soviet Union and China will participate in the international conference.

A Jordanian source also refused Peres' proposal saying that Jordan will never make a bilateral agreement or participate in direct negotiations with Israel. Jordan as well as Syria are seeking to reach peace within an international context. Jordan TV simply made no comment concerning Peres' plan.

Local Newspaper Reaction

Al Quds newspaper's editorial praised the Jordanian position as "a continuation of the Arab joint political position made in the Fez summit in 1982." The newspaper also praised the Jordanian-Syrian statement on October 21 which called for initiating a plan to implement the Fez resolutions.

Al Fajr Arabic daily's editorial expressed suspicions "over Arab silence in the face of Israeli and US attempts to strike at the PLO and the Palestinian national rights." The editorial said "any solution contradicting the PLO's political stand will be a complete failure. The Palestinian and Arab masses, who reject surrender and the use of power to impose solutions, will fight against any isolation that goes contrary to our national aspirations."

The editor of *Al Tali'a* daily Bashir Barghouthi, wrote: "What Peres mentioned in his speech which was described as a 'new peace initiative' does not go beyond the previous Israeli political stands. Peres opposes comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied since 1967. He does not recognise the Palestinian rights to self-determination or the PLO. He refuses the idea of an international conference with the Soviet Union's participation... He also gives himself the right to identify the Palestinians in the Jordanian delegation when he referred to them as 'delegates that represent peace and not terror.' Therefore Peres calls on King Hussein to negotiate with Israel as if the exclusion of the PLO and the Soviet Union are not impositions of preconditions."

Neturei Karta

The non-Zionist organisation of Palestinian Jews *Neturei Karta* also condemned the proposals. In a cable to the PLO delegate at the UN Assembly, Mr Zuhdi Tarazi, they said: "We, the tens of thousands of indigenous Palestinian Jews represented by the *Neturei Karta*, and hundreds of thousands of Jews throughout the world who dissociate from the Zionist state and its activities, wish to inform you the Honourable Delegates to the United Nations Assembly, that Mr Shimon Peres, who is due to address the UN Assembly this afternoon, does not represent the Jewish nation, nor the indigenous Palestinian Jews, residing in Palestine since before the Zionist incursion into the Middle East."

The cable asserted that the Zionist State is attempting to substitute the Torah and faith in God with "one based on nationalism — land and language — even though devoid of Divinity." The *Neturei Karta* members then asked UN delegates "to consider the Zionist Prime Minister's words in their proper perspective, and not to relate his government's acts and decisions to that of the Jewish nation and its mentality. Jew and Arab were living amicably in peace and tranquility before the Zionist power-hungry heretics incited and caused dissension between the Jewish and Arab Palestinian populace."

Surif Wants Return of Commandos' Bodies

The families of the four Palestinian commandos killed by Israeli troops in the Hebron hills two weeks ago are demanding the return of their sons' bodies for burial.

Not only are they concerned with the Israeli military's attitude towards their sons' bodies, but they report that the Israeli authorities have been subjecting the entire village of Surif to constant harassment.

The village council in Surif, home of three of the five commandos, applied on behalf of three of the families to the International Committee of the Red Cross on October 15, for return of the bodies. The fourth commando is from the village of al-Samu'. The ICRC notified the families on October 21, that the Israeli authorities had buried the bodies in an unknown location.

Ahmad Atiyeh al-Ghnaimat, a Surif resident and family member of two of the dead commandos, told *Al Fajr* the Israeli authorities have not contacted them at all since they first heard the news of the deaths. The fate of the fifth commando, Mohammed al-Toss, from Jaba' village, near Bethlehem, who was wounded in the incident is still not known.

One source in Surif said that the families insist on having the bodies returned to them. They have hired a lawyer to file an appeal with the Israeli High Court should the Israeli authorities fail to turn over the bodies. The Israeli authorities returned the bodies of four other commandos several months ago on court order. The bodies were kept in special Israeli cemeteries.

The Israelis also continue to stop official registrations and document processing such as birth registrations, driving licences or travel permits. Residents say that the restriction has been imposed since July, more than three months before the attack.

Public Supports

Continued from page 1

also said the prisoners were denied medical treatment, even those chronically ill.

Quoted in the Haifa-based *Al Ittihad* Arabic daily October 18, detainee Nabil Burhan from Arrabah village near Jenin told his visiting MKs that seven prisoners collapsed during the first days of the strike because they were denied treatment. Another detainee, Yusef Odeh Turk, a Najah University student who was arrested only four months before he was expected to graduate, said the guards use psychological warfare against them to force them to break the strike. He said the guards walk back and forth in front of the striking prisoners with food and beverages in their hands.

According to the four MKs, the prisoners they met denied that they were held for security reasons as the military claims. They said the prisoners feel their detention is political in order to please the right-wing Israelis who have been demanding tougher measures against the Palestinian population of the occupied territories.

Vilner, secretary of the Israeli Communist Party, Rakah, told the press conference that the struggle of the Palestinian people for independence and freedom is legitimate. He described Israeli measures against the Palestinian people as "real terrorism". Zayyad, who is also mayor of Nazareth, said "the miserable conditions of the detainees indicate the degree of repression carried out by the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian people who reject the occupation."

The prison authorities did not allow the Knesset members to meet the prisoners as a group. One prisoner at a time spoke with the MKs. Zayyad said one of the demands of the prisoners to end their strike was to cancel an order in which the detainees will have to stand up very early each morning to be counted. The detainees have refused to stand up for the morning count which created friction between them and the guards.

Some of the administrative detainees, meanwhile, took their case to an Israeli military objections committee hoping to turn over their detention orders. The objections committee heard some of the cases October 21 and 22 during which advocate Felicia Langer and other lawyers from her office argued that the administrative detention was unjustifiable.

Some of the detainees also spoke at the hearing on their bad prison conditions. They demanded to be transferred to Nablus Prison from Beer Sheba where more than 30 of them are being held. The Beer Sheba detainees were moved their October 16 from Jnaid Prison in an attempt by the prison authority to break their strike. Beer Sheba Prison, located in the Naqab desert, is known for extremely harsh conditions.

The detainees also challenged the military court to present any hard incriminating evidence against them. They said they were willing to face any trial on the condition that charges are clearly filed against them. The military objections committee, which has only recommendation powers, not executive, will issue a recommendation within days.

Solidarity campaigns with the striking detainees and their relatives continued this week in various locations in the West Bank. Students of Bir Zeit University organised October 21 a solidarity gathering in which hundreds of students and relatives of prisoners participated. The protest meeting was originally scheduled for October 19 but military roadblocks erected on roads leading to Bir Zeit campus prevented many participants from reaching the campus. At the gathering, students spoke on the harsh conditions of the prisoners demanding their immediate release. A letter from detainees at Jnaid Prison was read to the crowd. The letter outlined the inhumane environment the prisoners live in. It urged "all conscientious people to stand by them to secure their release."

A special committee, called the Committee to Defend Administrative Detainees, also published a statement this week strongly denouncing the Israeli 'iron fist' policy in the occupied territories which led to the detention of more than 100 persons, mainly students and members of labour unions. The statement said that it was not enough for the Israeli occupation authorities to shoot at unarmed civilians in the streets and intimidate the population, but they went further to administratively detain people in blatant violation of international laws and norms. The statement joined others in calling for the immediate release of the detainees, many of whom have been held since early August.

Tireh Festival Finally Opens

The second annual festival on Palestinian heritage finally opened in the Triangle village of Tireh October 20 after forced delays by Israeli authorities.

The one week festival named *Jifra*, was repeatedly interrupted during the preparation stages in July and August by Israeli authorities who claimed that no building permits had been granted for the construction of temporary shacks. The temporary structures were intended to house festival exhibits and then later be torn down.

At the opening session Saleh Baransi, head of the Heritage Revival Centre in Taibeh which sponsored the festival, spoke on the obstacles put forth by Israeli authorities who tried to prevent the festival.

In three hastily completed rooms, several dresses and hand embroidery as well as traditional make-up were exhibited. Brass, glass and wood dishes as well as agricultural implements were also exhibited in the corridor. On various tables, scores of books written by famous Palestinian writers were displayed. There were also architectural and house design exhibits.

Fahmi Jebara, one organiser of the festival, said that the organisers took advantage of the *Yom Kippur* feast to continue working on the temporary shelters meant to serve as a Palestinian village replica. Yet the Israeli authorities had ordered them not to use it.

October 16, 1985

ISRAELI VEHICLES STONED, FIREBOMBED

An Israeli vehicle was stoned as it passed through al-Amal quarter in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip. No injuries or damage were reported. Soldiers detained several school children for questioning.

In another incident, a petrol bomb was thrown at an army vehicle as it passed west of Jabalya refugee camp. Authorities cordoned off the area and scores of residents were detained.

HEBRON UNIONIST JAILED

An Israeli military court in Ramallah sentenced Rateb al-Za'tari, treasurer of the Carpenters Union in Hebron, to 2 years in prison on charges of forcing his way into the local police station and stabbing a policeman. Za'tari, whose 7-year-old son was killed in a road accident last June, attacked the police station in search of the driver who hit his son. He stabbed policeman Fakhri al-Sharif when the latter tried to block him.

AMA'RI CURFEW LIFTED

Israeli authorities lifted a curfew imposed on al-Ama'ri refugee camp in the Ramallah area on Monday night. The curfew was clamped on the camp following a petrol bomb attack on an Israeli bus.

JABALYA YOUTH JAILED

Mohammed Mahmoud al-Fasis, 17, of Jabalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was sentenced to 3.5 years in prison and a similar suspended sentence by an Israeli military court in Gaza. He was charged with making four explosive charges and throwing one of them at an Israeli border police jeep.

RAMALLAH COURT LOOKS INTO ABU AIN'S CASE

An Israeli military court in Ramallah held a session to discuss the appeal by Ziad Abu Ain of Ramallah against his administrative detention. Abu Ain, who was released in the May 20 prisoner swap, was rearrested July 31 and jailed for 6 months under administrative detention orders dating back to the British mandate in 1945.

BEDUIN GIRL HELD FOR BURNING FLAG

An 18-year-old beduin woman from the Abu Rakik clan in Beersheba was detained by Israeli police on charges of "storming" the Tal-Sabe' police station. Maha Salim is also accused of burning an Israeli flag.

From our Tokyo correspondent — the month of September was crowded with pro-Palestinian activities in Japan. The Japanese Kinsai Solidarity Committee held a popular rally in the Japanese city of Osaka on the third anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

PLO representative in Japan Bakr Abd al-Mon'em (in photo) spoke to the audience on the problems still facing Palestinian refugees in Sabra, Shatila and Burj al-Barajaneh camps.

Bir Zeit University students demonstrate October 20 against the illegal administrative detention of 104 Palestinians.

16 HOUSES RAZED IN GAZA

Israeli bulldozers razed 16 Arab residences in Bayarit Anan west of Gaza on the pretext that they were built without a licence. The owners, however, say they had obtained permission to build the houses from the Jabalya local council.

October 17, 1985

SOLDIER WOUNDED BY STONES

An Israeli soldier was lightly wounded when an army jeep was stoned in the centre of Nablus, Israel Radio reported. Troops detained five youths after a chase and closed a shop in which a suspected stone-thrower was hiding.

32 DETAINEES TAKEN TO BEERSHEBA PRISON

Thirty-two Palestinian administrative detainees were transferred to Beersheba prison from Jnaid prison in Nablus in an attempt to break the 10-day-old hunger-strike announced by some 80 detainees. The detainees are demanding their immediate release.

4 GAZANS JAILED

Four Palestinian youths from the Gaza Strip were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 3 months in prison to 7 years in prison on charges of carrying out a grenade-attack on the US embassy compound in Tel Aviv last year.

Adel Sa'douni, 21, was sentenced by the Tel Aviv District Court to 7 years in prison and Tawfiq Darwish, 20, was sentenced to 5 years in prison.

Two other youths, who were not identified by name, were sentenced to 3 years in prison for one and 30 months in prison for the other.

J'LEM UNIONIST GETS 20 MONTHS

Jerusalem unionist Ghazi Jaradat was sentenced to 20 months in jail and 3 years suspended by the Israeli military court in Lydda on charges of membership in a Palestinian organisation and attempting to recruit others.

2 BIDYA MEN JAILED

An Israeli military court in Nablus sentenced Ahmad Abdel Rahim Salameh, 40, of Bidya village in the Tulkarm area, to 3 years in jail and 2 years suspended on charges of attempting to buy weapons in order to kill suspected collaborators. The court also sentenced Mohammed Awad Taha of the same village to 3 years in jail and 2 years suspended on charges of illegal possession of weapons.

QALQILYA NON-RESIDENTS WARNED

The head of the Israeli "civil administration" in the West Bank summoned *mukhtars* and notables from Qalqilya and asked them to provide him with a list of names of residents who live in the town without military authorities' permission.

GAZAN FINED FOR ASSAULT

Sharif al-Wuheidi, 21, of Gaza was fined IS200,000 and sentenced to 3 months suspended by an Israeli military court in Gaza on charges of assaulting an Israeli soldier.

October 18, 1985

86 ADMINISTRATIVE DETAINEES

The number of Palestinian administrative detainees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has risen to 86 detainees held at the Jnaid, Beer Sheba and Asqalan prisons, well-placed sources said. The detainees were held for 6 months under administrative detention orders dating back to the 1945 British Mandate in Palestine.

THREE JENIN BOYS JAILED

Three youths from Jenin were sentenced to 4 months in prison and 2.5 months suspended by an Israeli military court in Nablus which convicted them of security offences. The 3 are Ma'moun Masri Qassem, 16; Mohsen Awni al-Arbi, 16; and Ahmad Tayser Odeh, 15.

JERUSALEMITE JAILED

An Israeli military court in Lydda sentenced Fawaz Abdo of Jerusalem to 10 months in prison and 20 months suspended on security charges.

In Ramallah an Israeli military court sentenced Khaled Issa al-Sharabati of Bethlehem to a IS400,000 fine and 6 months suspended on charges of possessing banned material and distributing banned newspapers in 1982.

October 20, 1985

SETTLERS STONE GAZAN CARS

Jewish settlers hurled stones at Arab cars at the entrance to Gaza, shattering windshields and injuring a number of passengers.

3 SUR BAHER YOUTHS JAILED

Three youths from the village of Sur Baher near Jerusalem were sentenced to various prison terms by the Israeli military court in Lydda on charges of membership in a Palestinian organisation. They are: Fouad Dabsh, 20 — sentenced to 6

Four Knesset members visited administrative detainees in Jnaid to ascertain prison conditions. The four – Tawfiq Zayyad, Uzi Bornstein, Meir Vilner and Charlie Beiton – speak to the press about the worsening condition of the detainees.

years in prison; Ibrahim Shehadeh Bukeirat, 18 – sentenced to 4 years in prison; Yunis Bakr Basit, 18 – sentenced to 4 years in prison.

GAZA BUSINESSES CLOSED

Israeli military authorities ordered the closure of a number of shops and garages in the Asqalan area in Gaza until further notice. The Israeli measure follows the stabbing attack on an Israeli in the area on Saturday.

BURQA CURFEW LIFTED

A curfew imposed on the village of Burqa in the Nablus area on Saturday was lifted by the Israeli army. Residents say they do no not know why the curfew was imposed. Troops conducted house-to-house searches and rounded up dozens of men for questioning, they reported.

2 KHAN YUNIS SENTENCED

An Israeli military court in Gaza sentenced Ibrahim Mohammed Hasanain, 32, of Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip to 7.5 years in jail and 2.5 years suspended on charges of illegal possession of weapons and membership in a Palestinian organisation. Mohammed Hussein Sakr, 28, also from Khan Yunis, was sentenced to a similar prison term on identical charges.

October 21, 1985

EXTREMISTS TRY TO SEIZE LAND

Jewish zealots tried to seize Arab-owned land in Ras el-Amoud in Jerusalem, claiming Jewish graves existed on the 150-dunum plot. They sent a worker to build a "grave" in the centre of the plot. Landowners chased the worker away.

GAZA LAWYER HELD

An Israeli military court in Gaza upheld an administrative detention order against Gaza lawyer Raji Khader al-Surani, 32. Surani was detained July 21. Under administrative orders, he will spend at least 6 months in jail without facing charges.

October 22, 1985

EXTREMISTS INCITE AGAINST AL FAJR

Suspected Jewish extremists hung racist and inflammatory posters at the entrance to the offices of the Arabic *Al Fajr* newspaper in Jerusalem. The posters, written in Hebrew, English and Arabic read: "Here (*Al Fajr*) are the headquarters of the terrorist PLO" and "There is no place here for the PLO."

October 20-27

Festival: A Palestinian Heritage Festival, including models of a Palestinian house and market, is being held at al-Tireh.

October 23-30

Exhibition: An art exhibition against fascism is being held at the Culture Centre in Nazareth. From 8:00 am – 1:00 pm, 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Daily except Sundays.

October 25

Theatre: *The Prisoner.* The Jerusalem Al-Jawal Theatre presents this one-man play. Written, directed and performed by Saqer Salaymeh. In Arabic. At the Nuzha/el-Hakawati Theatre, Jerusalem. 6:00 pm. Telephone: 280957, 288189.

October 25-27

Exhibition: An exhibition of local Arab art and handicrafts will be held at the National Palace Hotel in Jerusalem. Sponsored by the International Women's Committee. 10:00 am – 10:00 pm.

October 27

Music: Sing-along for lovers of the classical tradition of Arabic music and for amateur singers of all ages. Join in singing some *Muwashahat* and songs by Sayyed Darweesh and Sheikh Imam. Emile Ashrawi will host what promises to be a fun evening. Free and open to all. At the Nuzha/el-Hakawati Theatre, Jerusalem. 6:00 pm.

EVENTS IN THE US

October 18 – January 5

Exhibition: The Textile Museum in Washington provides a rare opportunity for the public to view outstanding examples of woven Armenian carpets in an exhibition, "Weaver, Merchants, and Kings."

November 7-10

Convention: The Association of Arab-American University Graduates will hold their 18th annual convention, "New Directions for the Arab World, Arab-Americans and the Palestinian Issue," at the Americana Congress Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. Featured speakers include George Papandreou, Lakhdar Ibrahimi of the Arab League, Abd al-Latif al-Hamad, Shafiq al-Hout, Edward Said, Ibrahim Abu-Lughod and many more from the US and the Arab world.

TIME-BOMB FOUND IN KHAN YUNIS SCHOOL

A time-bomb was found in the schoolyard of the Hatem al-Ta'ee Secondary School in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip. Police sappers safely defused the bomb, the second to be found in the school in recent months.

SETTLER'S CAR FIREBOMBED

A petrol bomb was thrown at the car of a Jewish settler from Elon Moreh as it passed in the centre of Nablus. Israel Radio said the bomb exploded harmlessly. The army clamped a curfew on the area for several hours.

Education

Continued from page 8&9

training centres scattered in various towns in the west Bank. The centres are overseen by Israeli authorities. Statistics show that not more than 350 students who receive training in electricity, welding, carpentry, etc. during their prep years are absorbed in the industrial secondary schools.

Only 23 preparatory schools in the West Bank offer one class in industrial arts every week. Qeek, who is also director of the Arab Orphans' Industrial Secondary School in Jerusalem, said that the great majority of *tawjihi* students finish their secondary education yet are unqualified to work and earn their living. In his study on industrial education, Qeek proposed to form a special ministry to oversee developments and progress of industrial education in the West Bank. Qeek said industrial education in the West Bank has not changed since 1967. He proposes to train technical workers and engineering assistants. He suggested the establishment of technical centres for students who completed the preparatory level to train them in 12 different skills. He also suggested establishing six centres in Hebron, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nablus, and Tulkarm. Each centre would house 100 students. He proposed forming three similar centres for girls who would be trained in sewing, embroidery and make up.

Qeek has also proposed the establishment of four secondary schools in industrial arts, nursing, commerce, and hotel management. Each school would include, at the primary stages, 50 to 120 students. "The present industrial schools must be aided and more new polytechnics must be opened," Qeek suggested in his study. These schools and centres eventually would offer technical training for more than 1000 students, he said. Qeek then suggested that the Arab governments encourage and finance industrial, agricultural and housing projects to absorb the technical workers.

Mohammed Irwaished, director of the Department of Education in Bethlehem, Jericho and Jerusalem, said that the Jordanian government has begun to encourage technical and professional education in the East Bank. Irwaished said that there are plans to establish five industrial schools in the West Bank. "Yet the technical trend is still weak," Irwaished added.

Other Solutions

It seems that the question raised by Nasru of a plan concerning the needs of our society crucial to community development, our national identity and economic and national survival is merely rhetorical. Qeek argued that "under the occupation's strict control, nothing can be done. The authorities can deny us any permit to open a factory, a hospital, a school in order to strengthen our infrastructure. We have universities, community colleges and limited industrial education. We must continue as we are, even if the educational system does not operate in correlation with the needs of our society."

Nasru argues that the history of our society is distinctively characterised by domination by external powers with their own goals and interests. She concluded that a Palestinian education tailored by the Palestinians is most needed. Again this argument contradicts the present reality under which the Palestinians live. Her argument is directly connected with the issue of liberation. A Palestinian education will be formulated only after achieving liberation.

However, Qeek argues differently. "We Palestinians are Arabs and we cannot have a separate curriculum to contradict a comprehensive Arab curriculum." Dakkak says that there is no solution at the present time. The Palestinian local institutions can only initiate scientific studies, convene forums and conferences and issue recommendations. The change is an ongoing process that cannot occur overnight.

Nasru proposes opening a new avenue of offering educational services outside the traditional system of higher education. She suggested the establishment of a Jerusalem open university that began as an idea under the title "Palestine Open University" to be supervised by UNESCO in 1979. Nasru also suggested establishing a team of educators to attend and improve kindergarten education. She suggested also the setting up of a team of researchers to study community needs and to give an estimate of the number of university graduates that the community demands.

Mohammed Irwaished thinks that community colleges in their current status cannot provide a proper solution to the looming *tawjihi* crisis. "They are commercially-oriented colleges" he said. "The graduates of the community colleges, like other graduates of *tawjihi* and the universities, encounter similar problems," he said.

Perhaps the following solution proposed by Nasru is sensible. She recommends that parents advise their children to take available jobs in any small factory. "Let our dictum be: 'using one's hands for work is not separate from using one's mind'," she said. ■

Radio Broadcast Affords US Audience A Bit of Palestine

Radio announcer Jodeh Zayed./AO photo.

by Said al-Ghazali

Jodeh Zayed, 62, currently hosts a Palestinian radio broadcast in America. This is his attempt not only to get back to his Arab roots but to his roots as a writer.

Zayed left his native home in Ramallah in 1956 and travelled to America to make his fortune. He succeeded over the past 30 years in establishing himself as the owner of several restaurants and, at the same time, in fostering his hobby of journalism. Zayed established radio broadcasts of cultural and political news for the Palestinian and Arab communities in Chicago and Houston as a means to link the Palestinians abroad with the homeland. Recently, after his 30 years of absence, Zayed and members of the American Ramallah Federation toured the region where he met important figures in Palestine and abroad. Zayed met with *Al Fajr* and discussed his past experience in journalism and his pioneering of the Palestinian broadcasts in America.

In Palestine, Zayed began his career as a writer after finishing his matriculation exam. He wrote Arabic serials for the Jerusalem-based radio station and the Jaffa-based Near East Radio. Both stations were under auspices of the British authorities. "I used to write at least six serials every week. There was internal censorship, however, so that I and other Palestinian writers were obliged to write on cultural and social topics only on many occasions, though we used social phenomenons in our writing to actually mean politics," said Zayed.

Zayed and other figures in Palestinian literary society formed a union for film scriptwriters. Among these figures were the novelist Khalil Bedas, the historian Emil Jozi and the educator Ishaq Mousa Husseini. The scriptwriters wrote scripts for two films which were produced — "Gone with the Sand" and "My Wish".

After the war in 1948, Zayed lost his job and the union of scriptwriters was broken up. Since positions for Palestinian writers were scarce, Zayed joined the Jordanian army as a clerk in Amman. In 1956, he decided to leave Jordan for America in pursuit of his fortune. Zayed settled in Chicago where his sister lived and began working as a pedlar selling carpets and clothes. "I used to knock on doors trying to sell. Later I was able to open a small restaurant and my business grew," he said. At the same time, Zayed attempted to find a proper outlet for his writing talents.

The idea of becoming a radio broadcaster came accidentally when Zayed met with the former head of the Arab League Hassan Abdullah. Zayed said he and Abdullah were together when Zayed switched on the radio to listen to a programme in Spanish directed at the Spanish community in Chicago. "I then told Abdullah that the Arabs should have a similar programme. Abdullah agreed but didn't do anything to bring the broadcast about. However, it continued reverberating in my mind for a week, until I attended a Palestinian wedding of a guy from Ramallah. At the wedding, I told others of the idea. They backed it and we collected donations to start the programme. They also undertook to fund the programme on a long term basis," he said.

Zayed began the broadcast with a half an hour every week. He broadcast songs, poetry, and historic and geographic information about villages and towns in Palestine. He also covered the social news of Ramallah residents. In 1957, Zayed rented an AM station in Chicago and extended his programme to an hour. He now had two stations broadcasting to people within a 15-mile square area.

In 1974 Zayed moved his business to Houston, Texas, where he found some 200 Arab families living. However, he found that there was no radio broadcast for this large Arab community. He rented air time from a station called KBUK. Zayed broadcast a similar cultural programme. However, the Arab residents of Houston did not help fund the programme, thus, Zayed himself was forced to pay US100 dollars every week as rental over the next 10 years. Again his programme was subject to internal censorship and Zayed was unable to address political issues. He thus limited himself to Palestinian culture.

In 1980, a group of Americans interested in fostering freedom of expression in America, began uncensored programmes on FM public radio stations. The programmes were free and every ethnic group in America was given the right to start a programme in the English language. Five stations were established in Washington, Texas, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York. The public radio stations were funded by donors and listeners. "Prompted by the fact that the public radio station was free and uncensored, I drafted a proposal to start a programme for the Arab community in Texas. The reply was positive, but I had to wait four years until they got air time for my programme. The Texas station broadcast 17 programmes every week for various ethnic groups in Texas," Zayed said.

Zayed's programmes were now in English and reached far more listeners. On the programmes many Palestinian, American and Israeli figures were interviewed by Zayed and his daughter Nahed who received a degree in TV broadcasting. Zayed also was able to make contact with human rights organisations and anti-discrimination committees in America. His main interest was to address Americans encouraging them to see that the Palestinians were serious in their political approach to solve the Palestinian problem and to have a durable peace in the area.

Zayed currently fosters political dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians on his broadcast. On his programme, he tries to report information about Israeli violation of human rights in the occupied territories. After Ramallah Federation delegates met recently with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Zayed began planning to focus more on the political issues in the Amman Agreement, and the political stands of the US State Department.

Zayed believes that his programmes have helped Palestinian-Americans keep a close link with the homeland by contacting Palestinian as well as American visitors to the Holy Land. The programmes and other cultural activities have also helped make the suffering of Palestinian-Americans less, he said.

On his impression after visiting Ramallah for the first time in so many years, Zayed said, "When I arrived in Ramallah and saw people and the changes in the city, I blocked out the 40 years in the past and became fresh and young again with my memories. I hope in the very near future to move back to Ramallah with my family." ■

To Advertisers

AL FAJR English weekly newspaper was established in 1980 as a supplement of the Arabic daily AL FAJR.

The English weekly AL FAJR has been growing ever since. Today AL FAJR reaches nearly 10,000 readers, many of them libraries and institutions who display the paper to a much larger constituency. Immediately after its publication in Jerusalem Thursday nights proofs of the paper are transferred to New York by plane. In New York the paper is reprinted and distributed to subscribers within a very short period of time.

The breakdown of AL FAJR readers by country is as follows:

2,000 readers in Jerusalem and Israel (mostly sales from newsstands and subscriptions).
2,000 subscribers in Europe, Asia and Japan.
6,000 subscribers in the United States.

The vast majority of AL FAJR readers are intellectuals, politicians and generally people strongly interested in the situation in the Middle East. A large number of these readers make frequent visits to the area and therefore would be target people for ads concerning travel arrangements, airplane tickets, hotels and restaurants in the area. A number of the European subscribers are members of solidarity groups and make frequent visits to the area on student passes. Advertising for low price housing in Jerusalem and the area would bring results.

PRICE LIST

Inside pages	US$10 per column inch.
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